Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Malmierca Comments at Nonaligned Meeting Cited 1
Urges Greater Role for Group *[Havana Radio]* 1
Views Meeting, Angola Troops *[Havana Radio]* 1
Dissidents Issue Clandestine Publication *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 2
Speculation on Elliott Abrams' Replacement *[Havana Radio]* 2
Trade Agreement Signed With Venezuela *[Havana TV]* 2
Brazilian Candidate Comments on Debt; Departs *[Havana TV]* 3
Castro Invites Guyanese President To Visit *[Havana Radio]* 3
Cypriot Officials Attend Reception at Embassy *[Havana Radio]* 3
CSSR's Jakes on Reforms, Relations With Cuba *[Havana TV]* 3
Economic Relations Discussed With Hungary *[Havana Radio]* 6
• Bilateral Trade Talks With Albania Reviewed *[GRANMA 9 Nov]* 6
Zambian President Sends Message to Castro *[Havana Radio]* 6
'Antisocial Individuals' Sentenced in Holguin *[Havana Radio]* 6
• Artists Groups Comment on Artistic Scene *[GRANMA 10 Nov]* 6
• Challenges Facing Sugar Harvest Detailed *[GRAMNA 12 Nov]* 7
• Reduced Number of Medical Certificates Noted *[GRANMA 1 Dec]* 9

Inter-Caribbean

CTO 'To Review' Cuban, Other Admissions *[CANA]* 9

British Virgin Islands

Three Permanent Secretaries Reshuffled *[CANA]* 9

Dominican Republic

Committee Protests Presence of Haiti's Romain *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Reportedly Recovering *[CANA]* 10
Government Rejects Human Rights Report *[CANA]* 10

Haiti

CATH Calls for 24-Hour General Strike *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 11
Political Groups Voice Support *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 11
Drivers Union Calls for Antigovernment Action *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
PUCH's Theodore Comments on Election Forum *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Other Groups React to Forum *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Contraband 'Problem,' Solutions Discussed 13
President Holds Meeting *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Anticontraband Measures Cited *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Chamber of Commerce Comments *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Further Reaction to Romain Safe-Conduct 14
Political Groups Respond *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Cap Haitien Committees Cited *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
Joint Symposium With Dominican Teachers Held *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
Alleged Killer Reportedly in Dominican Republic *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
'Racketeers' Arrested at Immigration Offices *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16
'False Passports' Involved *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16

Heavy Highway Shooting Causes Concern *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Transport Workers Union Protests Recent Crimes *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Petit Goave Citizens 'Living in Fear' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Youths, Soldiers Clash in Cap-Haitien *[Bonaire Radio]* 17
Soldiers Discharged, Transferred in Jeremie *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Alleged American Drug Dealer Arrested *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Police Seize Cocaine in Cap Haitien *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Allocation of Namphy Pensions Criticized *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18

Jamaica

Seaga Calls for 9 Feb General Elections *[Bonaire Radio]* 18
Nomination Day 23 Jan *[Kingston Radio]* 19
Further on Seaga Speech *[CANA]* 19
Manley Gives PNP Reaction *[Kingston Radio]* 20
Three People Shot After 15 Jan JLP Meeting *[Kingston Radio]* 20

Trinidad and Tobago

'CLUB 88' Seeking Popular Support *[CANA]* 20
IMF Approves Economic Assistance Package *[CANA]* 20

MEXICO

Antidrug Operations, Arrests, Seizures Cited 21
Army, Police Actions Noted *[EL NACIONAL 8 Jan]* 21
'Drug Ring' Foiled *[EXCELSIOR 10 Jan]* 21
Oaxaco Operations Reported *[EL NACIONAL 11 Jan]* 21
'Drug Baron' Arrested *[THE NEWS 11 Jan]* 21
7 Arrested, Marijuana Seized *[EXCELSIOR 11 Jan]* 21
'Dangerous' Trafficker Arrested *[NOTIMEX]* 21
Border City Operations Noted *[Mexico City TV]* 22
5 Tons of Marijuana Confiscated *[Mexico City TV]* 22
Marijuana Seizures Noted *[Mexico City TV]* 22
Arrests at Border Cited *[NOTIMEX]* 22
6.5 Tons of Marijuana Burned *[NOTIMEX]* 22

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

Diplomatic Relations Established With Spain *[Belize City Radio]* 23

Costa Rica

Arias To 'Confront' Castro at Perez Inauguration *[Bonaire Radio]* 23
Caracas Meeting Confirmed *[AFP]* 23

El Salvador

Duarte Cancels Trip to Washington for Treatment *[ACAN]* 23
Venezuela's Perez Extends Invitation to Ungo *[Radio Venceremos]* 23
Clandestine Radio on 8-14 Jan FMLN Actions *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 23
15-16 Jan Attacks Reported *[Radio Venceremos]* 24
16-17 Jan Guerrilla Activity *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 24
Popular Union Nominates Presidential Candidates *[DIARIO LATINO 14 Jan]* 24

Guatemala

Government Reaffirms Friendship With Taiwan *[Taipei CNA]* 25

Honduras

TIEMPO Editorial Criticizes Government *[TIEMPO 31 Dec]* 25
Paper Charged With 'Libel' *[TIEMPO 13 Jan]* 26
Newspaper Reacts to Charges *[TIEMPO 13 Jan]* 26

Nicaragua

BARRICADA Cites PRAVDA on Ortega *[BARRICADA 11 Jan]* 27
Ortega Talks to Diplomats on U.S. Administration *[Managua Radio]* 28
Ortega Attends Ceremony at Cuban Embassy *[Havana TV]* 28
First Cuban Reconstruction Workers Arrive *[Havana TV]* 28
Contra Leaders Seeking Support in El Salvador *[Managua Radio]* 28
Editorial Views Opposition March, Ortega Remarks *[Managua Radio]* 29
Government Cancels Suspension of Newscast *[ACAN]* 29

Panama

'Explosive Device' Found at U.S. Consulate *[Hamburg DPA]* 30
FDP Reaction to Bomb *[Hamburg DPA]* 30
Editorial Criticizes Reagan, Juan B. Sosa *[MATUTINO 13 Jan]* 30
Further Criticism of Reagan *[CRITICA 13 Jan]* 31
FUMCA Plans Rally Outside U.S. Embassy *[Panama City TV]* 31
Legislator Pessimistic Regarding U.S. Relations *[Hamburg DPA]* 31
Solis Palma Speaks at Air Force Day Ceremony *[Panama City Radio]* 31
U.S. To Use Canal Funds To Pay PCC Workers *[MATUTINO 16 Jan]* 32
PCC Administrator's Economic Report Criticized *[MATUTINO 16 Jan]* 33
Plans To Increase Canal Tolls in Oct Criticized *[MATUTINO 13 Jan]* 33
Chief of Staff Justine Addresses FDP Seminar *[CRITICA 13 Jan]* 33
FDP Captains Reiterate Support for Noriega *[CRITICA 14 Jan]* 34
PNP Supports Sole Opposition Candidate *[Panama City TV]* 34
PRD President on Election Preparations *[Panama City TV]* 35
Arias Calderon: 'Unity' Watchword of Opposition *[Panama City TV]* 35
PDC Allegedly Plans To Divide Opposition *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Jan]* 35
COLINA Announces 1 February Convention *[CRITICA 17 Jan]* 35
Official on Opening of Soviet Trade Office *[MEDIODIA 16 Jan]* 36
Officials Discuss Efforts in Foreign Marketing *[Panama City TV]* 36
Banking Center Balance of Deposits Increases *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 15 Jan]* 36
Businessmen Predict Economic Decline for 1989 *[ACAN]* 37
Government Employees To Be Paid 20 January *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 17 Jan]* 37
Legal Action Resumes in 'Reverted Areas' *[Panama City TV]* 37

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

$3-Billion Loan To Be Requested From U.S. *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 13 Jan]* 38
Government Delays $500 Million Debt Payment *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 38
Dismissals of Public Employees Changed *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 38
New Labor Minister Installed at Planalto Palace *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 38

Colombia

Officials Dismantle FARC Cell in Bogota *[EL SIGLO 10 Jan]* 38
Logistical Leader Arrested *[Bogota TV]* 39
EPL Raids Officers Club, Steals Weapons *[Bogota TV]* 39
FARC Kills Five Peasants in Monteria, Cordoba *[EL TIEMPO 10 Jan]* 39

Peru

Minister Defends Fishing Contract With USSR *[Lima TV]* 39
Shining Path Reportedly Kills 4 in Yauyos *[Madrid EFE]* 40
Terrorists Kill 2 Policemen While on Duty *[Lima TV]* 40
Ambush Mayor, Injure 2 Guards *[Lima TV]* 40
Kill 15 in Madre de Dios *[Madrid EFE]* 40
Minister Confirms Discovery of New Oil Field *[Lima TV]* 40

Venezuela

* Andres Perez Speaks on Economy, Other Issues 40
* Debt, Domestic Policy *[EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 27 Nov]* 40
* Capital Flight, Taxes *[BOHEMIA 28 Nov]* 41
* Oil, Mining Policy *[BOHEMIA 5 Dec]* 43

Suriname

Foreign Minister Heidweiller Relieved of Duties *[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 12 Jan]* 45
Further on Foreign Minister *[Paramaribo International]* 45
Head of Government-Controlled Radio Replaced *[Paramaribo International]* 45
Government Completes Development Plan Draft *[Paramaribo International]* 45

Cuba

Malmierca Comments at Nonaligned Meeting Cited

Urges Greater Role for Group

FL1301220089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2355 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Our country's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca welcomed today the steps taken in favor of nuclear disarmament and said peace should be valid for big and small countries regardless of their military power. The Cuban foreign minister spoke in Nicosia, Cyprus on behalf of Latin American and Caribbean countries during a 3-day Nonaligned Movement ministerial meeting which will promote a critical assessment of the movement's operations.

The presence in the Cypriot capital of so many delegations, many of them headed by ministers, shows the increasing importance the movement gives to the need to improve its role in today's world.

In his remarks, Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca recalled that nonaligned countries are identified as a genuine pillar of the interests of the peoples. The new situation existing in the world as a result of the agreements reached between the USSR and the United States should be used by the Nonaligned Movement to work creatively toward creating peace conditions that are valid for all, said Malmierca.

The Cuban foreign minister added that it is necessary to achieve a peace that is real for weak and powerful, rich and poor, that opens the possibilities for strengthening our independence and advancing in the path of development.

The international economic situation demands from the Nonaligned Movement cohesive and effective action in the search for solutions for the urgent prevailing problems, such as the foreign debt, and the achievement of just and equal relations, said the Cuban foreign minister. Malmierca asserted at the Nonaligned Movement ministerial meeting, which began in the Cypriot capital today, that the new conditions demand more analyses by the movement.

Views Meeting, Angola Troops

FL1401034089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0040 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca from Nicosia, Cyprus by Felix Fernando Garrido during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [Garrido] I am talking now with our Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, member of the PCC Central Committee, who, as our listeners already know, is heading our delegation attending the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers committee meeting being held in Nicosia. Good evening minister.

[Malmierca] Good evening.

[Garrido] We would like to learn from the most authorized source: How has this 1st day of work of the Nonaligned Movement meeting been, the Nonaligned ministers committee meeting?

[Malmierca] The meeting began today. It was scheduled since the last ministerial conference, also held here in Nicosia last September, to review the methods of work, the procedural norms of the movement, and to make an attempt to update—as it is usually said—our activities so that all the work operations of the movement can be fresher and more active. We believe that the 1st day has been characterized, first, by the large number of foreign ministers who are participating in the meeting. Over 20 ministers have gathered here in Nicosia and it was reported that a few more are due to arrive today—because today is already tomorrow here.

[Garrido] Yes, it is Friday the 13th here and it is already Saturday there.

[Malmierca] Correct. We had the privilege of being chosen to participate in the opening ceremony on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean countries represented in the meeting. We took the opportunity to note the importance the Nonaligned Movement gives to this meeting. It is not a meeting to discuss the situation of a certain area of the world or the action of the movement regarding a specific event, but to review the movement's work methods. Despite this, a large number of countries have been represented. There are over 50 countries and over 20 of the delegations are headed by their foreign ministers.

[Garrido] Minister, when is this meeting scheduled to end?

[Malmierca] We should finish on Sunday night. According to the best of the traditions of the Nonaligned Movement, we always have to extend the meetings a little more.

[Garrido] Malmierca, I want to tell you—because of the role you played in this triumph of our revolution, of our people in general, of peace, and socialism—that the internationalist combatants continue arriving well and very happily in our fatherland. As you represent us now in Nicosia in the Nonaligned Movement meeting, do you have a message for our combatants who continue to arrive with joy here in our fatherland?

[Malmierca] In this task that has been assigned to us by the revolution, we very often have to travel abroad. It has been especially difficult this time to have to leave our country when our people were getting ready to welcome our internationalist combatants, the heroes who achieved not only victory in numerous battles but a great historic victory and contributed to guaranteeing the safety of Angola and to paving the wave for Namibia's independence. We would have liked to have been together with our people sharing the happiness and such a deserved recognition for our combatants.

[Garrido] Thank you, Minister, for this contact with the "Exclusivo" newscast and good night.

[Malmierca] Thank you very much.

Dissidents Issue Clandestine Publication
PA1401145589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2101 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Havana, 13 Jan (REUTER)—The dissident Human Rights Party in Cuba has issued its first information bulletin in an effort to publicize its cause.

The first edition of "FRANQUEZA"—two mimeographed pages—was delivered today to the foreign media.

The self-styled Human Rights Party said it is aware of the risks it takes by disseminating a bulletin, but added that it was necessary to give the local public an independent source of information.

All of the Cuban press is controlled by the state.

The wife of the party's ideological secretary and editor in chief of "FRANQUEZA," Hiram Abi Cobas Nunez, said her husband had disappeared and she was afraid he had been arrested because of the bulletin.

No government officials were available for comment.

Tania Rodriguez Castro, president of the party, was summarily given a 1-year sentence in November for insulting the guards in front of the main Cuban prison.

Militants of the group, a splinter of the old Human Rights Committee, told foreign journalists that five members of a nongovernment art group—the Association for Free Art—had been in jail for almost 3 months without any official charges having been filed.

The government's official position is to consider dissidents as counterrevolutionaries and to discreetly reduce their activities to a minimum.

Speculation on Elliott Abrams' Replacement
FL1301175989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1257 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras during "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] During the past few days, and especially this morning, speculation has grown among U.S. and Latin American press agencies and politicians in reference to who will succeed Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, in the Bush administration. Will his successor be a hawk, who is more experienced as a warden of a high-security prison, or a frustrated ranger [preceding word in English] instead of a diplomat?

Abrams yesterday said farewell to his position. It has been previously said that the greatest error of the Reagan administration was its failure to invade Nicaragua in 1983 after the invasion of Grenada.

Some analysts feel that it would have been better to appoint anyone except Abrams, a liberal from the seventies who later adopted political terrorism.

George Bush, who assumes the U.S. presidency on 20 January, has not yet named Abrams' successor. However, U.S. and Latin American newspapers and politicians consistently mention a 67-year-old lawyer from New York, who studied law in Tehran from 1962 to 1965. He later received Latin American training as a legal adviser in Lima to a corporation belonging to the Rockefeller family. His name is (Charles Hellenger). According to an experienced Argentine journalist who has worked in Washington for decades for a U.S. agency, (Hellenger) would base his Latin American policy on three basic premises:

First of all, U.S. relations with Latin America should be stripped of their ideological ties.

Secondly, the obsession with Panama and Central America should be overcome and a new priority should be placed on social, political, and economic problems that affect the largest countries in the continent.

Thirdly, the United States should now shape a policy for Latin America through the year 2000.

The journalist says he got his information from congressional sources close to (Hellenger).

In reality, if this was the case, a dose of realism would be introduced into U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America and, in addition, a policy would be shaped because improvisation—a strange mixture of rancor, lack of familiarity, underestimation, the crudest pragmatism, and the most reactionary imperialist ideology—has been the characteristic of the Yankee policy toward Latin America during the past 8 years which are finally ending, and which placed Reagan in the White House.

Of course, actions and not good intentions are what is used to judge a policy. At any rate, there is no risk. One can be sure that whoever replaces a person that is so pathologically resentful and aggressive, who is the opposite of a dove—a hawk—can be a better assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

Trade Agreement Signed With Venezuela
FL1301040289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] A partial-scope agreement has been signed by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Eduardo Mayobre, president of the Institute of Foreign Trade of Venezuela. This is the first agreement of its kind signed with Venezuela. Its aim is to boost the economic integration process in the region. The document will be in effect for 3 years. It provides for strengthening trade between Venezuela and Cuba and establishes tariff concessions between the two countries for some import goods.

Through this agreement, Cuba receives tariff preferences in its export goods such as rum, tobacco, nickel oxide, and external braces, among others. For its part, Venezuela will have tariff preferences in oils, greases, lubricants, pipe connections, aluminum plates and sheets, and industrial valves.

Eduardo Mayobre is paying a working visit to our country. He is scheduled to tour the EXPOCUBA pavilions.

Brazilian Candidate Comments on Debt; Departs
FL1301165689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Today Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, candidate for the Presidency of Brazil and federal deputy and director of metallurgy, left Cuba. Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the America Department; Italo Zappa, Brazilian ambassador to Cuba; and others went to Jose Marti International Airport to say farewell to the distinguished visitor.

During his 5-day visit to our country, Luis Ignacio da Silva visited the National Assembly of the People's Government and EXPOCUBA. He also toured various social works in Havana and held meetings with PCC and government leaders.

The leader of the Worker's Party of Brazil, the party which triumphed in the recently held municipal elections, began in Cuba a tour that will take him to several parts of the world. The purpose of his tour is to tighten relations with Brazil and to push forward the cancellation of foreign debt payments.

Shortly before his departure, Luis Ignacio da Silva granted Cuban Television an interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What do you think is a possible solution to the serious foreign debt problem facing Latin American countries, especially Brazil, which has a $120 billion debt.

[Da Silva, in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation] It is very important that the leaders and people of the Third World understand that only by uniting can we face international creditors. I am convinced that the debt problem cannot be solved individually. Let us, the countries with debts, go collectively to face the creditors, otherwise there will be no solution for the Brazilian debt or the debt of any other country in the Third World.

We are convinced that the solution to the foreign debt is the suspension of payment.

[Reporter] As a candidate for the Presidency of Brazil, what would be the main elements of your governmental plan if you win the elections in November?

[Da Silva] The first thing the Worker's Party would deal with is having the foreign debt suspended. Secondly, we would deal with policies for agrarian reform which would give the workers the land to be able to produce cheaper and more food. Thirdly, we are concerned with policies to regulate the production sectors, agricultural as well as industrial, so that we can put an end to financial speculation.

Also, we believe that Brazil will have to initiate serious policies with regard to education and health. These are two crucial problems in our country.[end recording]

Castro Invites Guyanese President To Visit
FL1401132189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The president of Guyana, Hugh Desmond Hoyte, will make a friendly and official visit to Cuba within the next few days. The head of state of Guyana will visit Cuba at the invitation of President Fidel Castro.

Cypriot Officials Attend Reception at Embassy
FL1401132289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Cypriot President Yeorios Vasiliou attended a reception at the Cuban Embassy in Nicosia. The reception was in honor of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

Also present at the reception were Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban Ambassador to Cyprus Guillermo Zurbitu, and the principal personalities in the Cypriot Government, parliament, and political parties.

CSSR's Jakes on Reforms, Relations With Cuba
FL1301222989 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0145 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Interview with Milos Jakes, secretary general of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, CPCZ, by Daisy Gomez on "International View" program; in vernacular with simultaneous Spanish translation—recorded]

[Text] [Gomez] Greetings, esteemed viewers. CPCZ Secretary General Milos Jakes has had the courtesy to grant Cubana Television this interview.

Comrade Jakes, presently there are political, economic, and social changes taking place in several socialist countries. In your opinion, how is this process characterized in Czechoslovakia?

[Jakes] First of all, I would like to say that there are many general aspects, common aspects, in this process. These common, general aspects consist of the following: The restructuring that is taking place involves an economic reform and continues the democratization of social life.

The essence of the economic reforms involve increased responsibility for the worker's collectives in the areas of self-financing and making efforts.

Also, we are after changes in central planning. This program's essence will be to substitute the administrative methods with more economical instruments, which is to say everything the enterprise will turn into the state. It will create a system that should raise the interest of the workers in the enterprises; it will captivate their interest and enhance

development by introducing technology into production. This will improve performance to better satisfy society's needs by constantly increasing the quality of products.

Of course, this process will have its peculiarities, every country has them. The specifics will be determined by the level of economic development of the individual countries, as well as each country's development needs. The reason for every these measures is to accelerate economic development.

In Czechoslovakia, this process should be accompanied by the restructuring of our economy which, up to now, consumes much energy and metals. [Words indistinct] has been very diversified; it produced an exaggerated amount of the world's production, especially in the area of machinery. Reform should help solve all of these problems. I think that this process, which will also be accompanied by democratic processes, will open more room to apply the worker's initiatives, while at the same time the responsibilities of these workers are raised.

[Gomez] Comrade Jakes, what is the present phase of the economic restructuring and democratization processes in Czechoslovakia?

[Jakes] Regarding the economic sector: The new economic system is being prepared to go into effect 1 January 1990. All the preparations are being made so that the program can begin at that time. We are trying this system in many enterprises. One of the important measures taken has been the enactment of a law on state enterprises. This law is characterized by [words indistinct] and rights. According to this law, new state enterprises will be established. This means that the organizational structure of existing enterprises has been changed. We are going to eliminate the middle link—that is to say the general direction of the enterprises—by establishing individual state enterprises.

At the same time, a series of other indispensable laws have been enacted to put into effect our restructuring process. A new work code is being prepared which will state the responsibilities of the enterprises and workers.

We are also preparing a series of new laws on state planning. Central planning will not be done away with. On the contrary, in a certain way it will be strengthened, but it will not worry about details. At the same time, we could talk about other laws that will be going into effect. These laws will deal with things such as taxes and quotas for the state.

These laws are so that the enterprises can work in the spirit of the economic reforms. The enterprises must be given legal guarantees so they can work in this system. Also, measures have been taken which deal with changing the work methods in the central organs by putting together several ministries. This has reduced the ministerial apparatus by 30 percent. We are trying to raise the quality of the work done by the ministries. They should not worry about the details, but rather promote the development of various branches.

Measures were taken that deal with the possibility of establishing enterprises with foreign participation.

Other measures were taken to give production enterprises more autonomy and independence, at the same time increasing their responsibilities so that the interests of society are satisfied. Society's interests must be imposed on this sphere of production. Society's interests should be in the center of the enterprises, as well as the CPCZ. If not, a situation might arise in which the enterprises, with these flexible rights, could abuse them. We must avoid the abuse of society by the enterprises; we cannot permit it.

Now I would like to talk to you about some very important actions taken: for example, restructuring of wholesale prices so that they truly represent costs and so that they are closer to world prices. This should create equality and justice at different levels so that one enterprise does not have an advantage over another enterprise. We must pressure the enterprises so that they can compete in the world.

The fundamental thing is that people should understand what the reform consists of to give us their backing. They should not expect salvation from the reform. In other words, they should not expect the reform to do it for them. It is the people who have to work; the reform will just break the boundaries that stopped people from accomplishing. A good job can support and give good results. The reform should create conditions for them.

[Gomez] Comrade Jakes, Czechoslovakia is among the 10 most industrialized nations in the world. What is your opinion of the debt problem in which underdeveloped countries find themselves in, and how can this problem be solved?

[Jakes] Above all, I want to say that Czechoslovakia is among the countries that actively help developing countries. A certain percent of our national budget is given to help these countries. However, help is also given in other ways.

It is clear that the underdeveloped countries' debt situation is unbearable. This problem must be solved. It is essential that these countries create the conditions necessary to promote their development. The enormous debt is an obstacle for these countries.

The fundamental solution is in applying a new economic order, a new economic system, which would enable the development of these countries. This would include having industry and incorporating the underdeveloped countries into the world economy. Just having raw materials and producing semiproducts [as heard] does not help them. They should be countries with strong industrial infrastructures, similar to the ones found in developed socialist and capitalist countries. We must help to create this. This is the fundamental road that must be taken so that developing countries can advance.

We must take away from them the enormous weight of the debt, because the debt takes away from them the funds from their labors.

I want to reiterate that we clearly back all the proposals made by Comrade Fidel and Comrade Gorbachev.

[Gomez] Next May, Czechoslovakia and Cuba will celebrate the 29th anniversary of having diplomatic relations. What do you think have been the principal achievements of this link?

[Jakes] For me, the most important thing has been the prosperity in cooperation and friendship between our governments, our people, and our communist parties. Throughout the 29 years, a solid and firm foundation has been created, enabling us to advance our cooperation.

Czechoslovakia aided in establishing several enterprises in Cuba, and Cuba contributed by sending us a series of food products, mainly citrus and sugar. We can also talk about the cooperation given in training by workers, teaching, science and technology, and many other areas. Now we find ourselves in a period in which we must find new forms of cooperation. We must not only co-participate or share the new joint efforts and commercial exchange; we must also look for a direct form of cooperation between Czechoslovak and Cuban enterprises.

This is the main thing for which we have created conditions and premises. We hope this strengthens our mutual ties. We highly appreciate the profound internationalism of the Cuban people. This is demonstrated in every sense because Cubans are helping everywhere. They always help the weaker, wherever they may need help. This must truly be admired very much because it cannot be valued in economic terms.

[Gomez] Comrade Jakes, you are now ending your visit to our country. During your visit you have had several contacts with our people and have met with our highest leaders. What do you think has been your visit's biggest achievement?

[Jakes] It has been a very interesting visit. I have been able to visit a series of centers and enterprises. I have also been able to speak with many workers—beginning with the centers' workers and leaders, and ending with the enterprises' workers. I would like to thank them for the wonderful feeling of friendship that was extended to me everywhere. This has been a very good demonstration for our country and our people, and it has shown me the interest there is to enhance cooperation between our countries. Thank you very much for all of this.

There are possibilities to further cooperation in the centers, enterprises, hospitals, and research centers we visited. We must develop this cooperation because it is in the interest of both nations.

I did not come here alone. Many other government and party leaders have come with me and they met with their Cuban counterparts. During those meetings, we have looked for new ways of cooperation and we have arrived at definite conclusions. We will continue to further our talks. Everything I have seen has made a good impression on me. It is evident that, throughout the 30 years of revolution, the Cuban people have achieved much. With respect to the PCC and Comrade Fidel, it is evident they have decided in their efforts to continue strengthening socialism in Cuba and fulfilling all of the works mentioned. The inauguration of EXPOCUBA was very impressive. This construction, to exhibit Cuban products and to hold international fairs, has been done in record [preceeding word in English] time. With much interest, I attended the rally in which Comrade Fidel Castro gave his speech. In this speech, Comrade Fidel illustrated in a very plastic [as heard] way the achievements achieved by Cuba. He also stated the Cuban people's profound sense of internationalism, and his points of view on international matters. He not only received the backing of the tens of thousands of Cubans who paid close attention, but all the foreign delegations as well. This proves the great prestige Cuba has in the world. He also received our delegation's support.

Today we will meet with Comrade Fidel to speak with him and other officials, such as Comrade Rodriguez and others. They have been very productive meetings in which we have understood each other very well. With respect to international matters, our points of view are almost the same. We also share the same views toward the struggle for peace, everything that has to do with promoting mutual cooperation, trying to achieve the unity of the socialist community, and perfecting the work of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

We have also taken an interest in how each of our countries will advance after fulfilling every demanding task that is behind schedule and which, in many cases, will need new outlooks so that they can be finished.

I want to stress that the exchange of opinions and experiences of this type is very important. This will aid us in understanding each other more and strengthening our unity. It will also help us to learn from each others' experiences so that it will be a positive influence in future developments.

Of course, every country has to deal with its own situation and advance according to it. However, we have goals in common, such as strengthening and developing socialism, creating better living conditions for the people, strengthening our position in the international sphere, and contributing to the achievement of world peace.

I truly believe our talks have contributed to everything I have mentioned and I value these talks very much.

Finally, I would like once again to take this opportunity to congratulate the Cuban people on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. I wish you well with all of your labors, and in fulfilling your tasks that are behind schedule. I wish all of you good health and my personal congratulations.

[Gomez] Thank you very much for those kind words for our people. It has been a great pleasure to have you share with the Cuban people the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

[Jakes] Thank you.

Economic Relations Discussed With Hungary

FL1401134889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] High-ranking officials from Cuba and Hungary held a 2-day meeting in Havana to coordinate planning between the two nations.

Antonio Rodriguez Maurell, vice president of the government [as heard] and minister president of the Central Planning Board, and Janos Hus, president of the Hungarian Planning Board, presided over the meeting.

The main topics discussed at the meeting were economic relations and commercial exchange between the nations. They plan to continue working to improve and expand relations in accordance with principles of brother socialist states.

* Bilateral Trade Talks With Albania Reviewed

32480050a Havana GRANMA in Spanish 9 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Havana—Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister, and his counterpart from the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Shane Korbeci, met in this capital to deal with matters related to bilateral trade in 1988. At the meeting they confirmed that trade is going well, and they analyzed projections for 1989 trade. They also looked at the prospects for increasing commercial relations and for scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. Albania exports goods including preserves, wires, and alcoholic beverages to Cuba, while Cuba sends Albania sugar, auto parts, pharmaceutical products, and other items.

Zambian President Sends Message to Castro

FL1301135489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has sent a message to Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro.

The text of the message was received by PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet from Zambian party leader (Rankintitus Sicasula).

The two officials yesterday discussed the current state of bilateral relations and the possibilities for developing these further. They also discussed the situation in southern Africa and were both in complete agreement on the matter.

'Antisocial Individuals' Sentenced in Holguin

FL1401041889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0048 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Report by Aroldo Garcia from Holguin]

[Text] One of the criminal chapters that bothered the revolutionaries the most in Banes Municipality during 1988 concluded here only a few minutes ago. The night of last 29 August, a group of antisocial individuals used an incident at El Coral popular social center in the municipality to physically attack several combatants of the National Revolutionary Police who went to the place to guarantee public order.

Those involved in the incident were faced, first, by the firm response of those who were fulfilling their duty in an unselfish way, and then by the rejection of all the people. Over 70 citizens were involved in the incident. Almost all of them were under the influence of alcohol. Nine individuals were basically charged. They were sanctioned by the Holguin Provincial People's Tribunal this afternoon, just a few minutes ago.

Victor Manuel Perez Morgado was sentenced to 5 years and 6 months of loss of freedom; Roberto Ramirez Duran received 7 years; Abel Vidal Nunez, 5 years and 9 months; (Julio Mir Estopinales), 6 years and 6 months; and Sandalio Santos Sosa, 9 years. They were all sentenced for the crime of disobeying the authorities, public disorder, and hurting and resisting authorities. (Inalbis Sanchez Esposito), (Inalbis Gonzalez Sanchez), and Amada Manreza Leyva were sentenced to 3 years of limitation of freedom for disobeying the authorities.

I repeat: These sanctions were just announced in this city during the hearing held by Holguin's Provincial People's Tribunal today.

* Artists Groups Comment on Artistic Scene

32480050b Havana GRANMA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 5

[Text of joint declaration by the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists and the Saiz Brothers Association]

[Text] The Office of the President of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC) and the National Executive of the Saiz Brothers Association have jointly studied some aspects of the current situation of our culture, and we feel it is necessary to state the following:

We recognize the search for new artistic language in the heart of revolutionaries; we are following with interest the programs that are designed to find new types of interface between the public and art, including those that break with traditional confines and conventions, and we encourage such programs. But in no way do we support expressions that aim to disturb the public order and that ultimately pave the way for sterile provocations; and we vigorously reject any attempt to use art as a pretext for attacking the work of the Revolution.

In addition, with regard to the art that is most closely linked to social themes, we firmly oppose a complacent, triumphalist, or merely ornamental aesthetic, and we highly value critical and responsible artistic productions that are intended to delve into the complexities and contradictions of our reality, productions that are conducive to reflection and to a better understanding of ourselves and our surroundings.

We reject pseudoartistic improvisation, which can give a distorted image of culture and of the artist and indeed makes more difficult our efforts to struggle against prejudices of various types and to link experimental and rejuvenating art to an ever-broader audience.

We are living in an age of great social complexity, when irresponsible and anarchistic tendencies emerge alongside dogmatic and simplistic positions that threaten the principles of the Revolution's cultural policy. The validity of that policy is demonstrated by the great creative explosion of these years. Our organizations reaffirm their full identification with those principles, and join forces to make the actual expression of them more efficient and organic. We must continue struggling against errors in the application of our cultural policy and against the defects that have become evident throughout its history. Now it is time to reinforce our unity and our support for a cultural strategy that has rejected the dogmatic value judgments of the artistic act and that has been able to create an atmosphere of creative freedom. We are convinced that the freedom of expression that is defended by our Revolution will yield better fruit, with an ever-expanding scope and resonance, as it is linked inseparably to solid social responsibility.

As a result of that cultural policy, of the maturity attained by our Revolution, and of the intellectual ferment that has been encouraged in all sectors, Cuban culture today tends to reflect the concerns, contradictions, and desires of our society, whose undeniable protagonists are the workers.

We can say that at present the problems of culture lie at the center of everyone's attention, because social problems are at the center of culture, and any thorough debate of the cultural situation should actively involve the intellectual movement and the most diverse sectors of our country. Any evaluation of cultural phenomena that takes place outside the confines of the real interests and expectations of society as a whole can lead to erroneous and damaging solutions, not only for culture, but for all of society as well. Moreover, to evaluate the present time and undertake specific, appropriate actions, we feel it is imperative that we avoid using generalizations and absolute judgments to guide us and determine our positions. We emphasize the need to discuss individual cases and specific works and artistic projects in their particular circumstances. We do not accept a simplistic and schematic vision, in black and white, of our culture's present situation, nor do we go along with facile classifications and labels to understand these problems. We oppose any pragmatic and biased tendency that underestimates or distorts the role of artistic culture in our social context. For this task, the seriousness and the descriptive precision with which artistic acts are disseminated, explained, and assessed are fundamental. It is not healthy at any level for rumors to take the place of information.

The UNEAC and the Saiz Brothers Association legitimize the critical function of an art that is wholly committed to the principles of socialism, and we reaffirm the need for a debate between revolutionary artists and writers that will make substantial contributions to our ideological unity. One cannot undertake true revolutionary criticism from mediocrity and improvisation, because this criticism is based on profound artistic creation, on rigor, on reflective capacity, and on an expressive maturity that can only be achieved through sustained, conscientious effort.

We are convinced of the extraordinary role that artistic culture is playing in the spiritual and ideological life of society, and of the firmness of principle that characterizes an intellectual community that has developed in the context of the heroic moments and the daily life of these 30 years. Throughout this period, the intellectual community has not given an inch in its position, which is that of Fidel, the Party, and the Revolution.

Those of us who participate directly in cultural affairs are currently undergoing an intense learning process for a creative and fecund dialogue, in which artists and writers of all generations and all aesthetic tendencies are participating along with cultural promoters and representatives of the most diverse sectors of our society. We will continue working because that dialogue, always respecting the diversity of opinions and the myriad approaches to the truth, has an ongoing flow, based on the desire for change and for the advancement of a revolutionary culture that will help consolidate and improve socialism in our Fatherland.

Office of the President of UNEAC Executive of the Saiz Brothers Association

* Challenges Facing Sugar Harvest Detailed

32480050c Havana GRANMA in Spanish
12 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] A new harvest is beginning, one that should turn out to be one of the best in our history. The systematic reclamation of sugarcane-growing areas, supported by a strong planting program, the timely and high-quality application of fertilizers and irrigation, and an intensive cleaning program, all guarantee the availability of sugarcane. If that cane is harvested efficiently, we will certainly achieve the additional million tons of sugar that we need.

The top priority should be to begin cutting and milling at every sugar mill precisely on the date that has been set, and to comply strictly with the schedule for all agricultural and manufacturing operations. In this harvest season, such operations will follow a schedule that indicates the optimum time for producing sugar in each processing plant.

The executive boards of the Sugar Processing Plants (CAI), on whose shoulders fall the primary responsibility for this task that is of such vital economic importance to the country, are facing the challenge of ensuring the efficient interconnected development of all agroindustrial activities with exemplary dedication and rigor.

Changes will be made at the Chief Minister's Office, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour and the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Stanley Gordon, permanent secretary in the Chief Minister's Office, has been assigned to the Ministry of Communications and Works, replacing Miss Ethlyn Smith who has been switched to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour.

Mrs Lorna Smith, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, goes to the Chief Minister's Office. The new assignments will take effect from January 16, the statement said.

The statement did not say what caused the changes, but government's chief information officer, Kennent Williams, said the move was to provide the premanent secretaries with experience of working in other ministries. The Ministry of Health Education and Welfare is not affected by the changes.

Dominican Republic

Committee Protests Presence of Haiti's Romain

FL1301175989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Committee of Solidarity With Haiti in the Dominican Republic protests the presence of former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain in the Dominican Republic because—they say—they think this man owes the Haitian people many explanations. The Committee of Solidarity With Haiti calls on the entire Dominican people and different sectors of the national life, especially all the democratic organizations and all the organizations struggling for change in the Dominican Republic, to join together to protest Romain's presence on Dominican territory. The Committee also asks the Dominican people, when they protest Romain, to not forget General Henri Namphy, who has been in the Dominican Republic since 17 September.

The committee asks Dominicans to be very vigilant so that the Dominican Republic will not become a refuge for dictators, for people who violate Haiti's Constitution and trample the rights of the Haitian people, so as to ensure that the Dominican Republic does not become a base where all the bloodthirsty who have sucked dry the blood of the Haitian people can hide and protect themselves.

That was a statement by the Dominican Committee of Solidarity With Haiti. [passage omitted]

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Reportedly Recovering

FL1201225789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Jan 11, CANA—Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, recovering from illness, should be back at his desk "within a relatively short period of time," the government reported.

The government in a bulletin aired on state-owned "Radio Grenada" Wednesday night said that Blaize was still in charge and running the affairs of government from his home on the sister island of Carriacou.

Blaize was said to be recuperating satisfactorily after being rushed to the U.S. last month for emergency treatment for an "abdominal disorder".

After being released from the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington on December 23, Blaize flew straight to his home and has since not visited the official residence of the Prime Minister at Mt Royal on Grenada.

"He is in daily contact with his office and is monitoring and advising on the day to day operations of the government," the government said.

Blaize missed Wednesday's Cabinet session—the first for the new year—and was also expected to miss Thursday's executive meeting of the ruling New National Party (NNP), the last before its crucial annual convention on January 21 and 22.

Cabinet sources have told CANA that because of "weak knees" doctors have restricted Blaize to his home.

The number two man in government—External Affairs Minister Ben Jones—was due to fly out to Carriacou today for confidential talks with Blaize.

Government Rejects Human Rights Report

FL1601204289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2022 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Jan 16, CANA—The Grenada Government today rejected a report put out by the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs giving the island low marks for its human rights record in 1988.

In responding to the report, the new National Party government said in a statement that it was alarmed by what it called the "unprofessional procedures" used by the council in arriving at Grenada's human rights status.

"It is clear that the conclusions reached were based on unchecked reports to the council by political enemies," government said.

The council, a Washington-based think tank, which monitors human rights developments around the world, accused the Grenada Government of following a pattern of systematic "human rights violations." It cited government's confiscation of leftist books and other publications, police brutality, and mistreatment of prisoners, in particular those convicted for the 1983 murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The government statement described as "ludicrous" the charge that last year Grenada was the scene of continuous violation of freedom of expression.

"Our government is of the view that no credible organisation can make such a statement as it is definitely not based on facts," it said.

Government suggested that the council's report was in sharp contrast to the human rights report issued by the Red Cross Organisation, which lauded government for the restoration of full democracy in Grenada, as well as its "meticulous respect" for the human rights of all citizens. Government also said that is was praised by the Red Cross Organisation for "the humane treatment" given to prisoners, especially those connected with Bishop's death.

Among those implicated in Bishop's murder were Former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and ex-Army Commander Hudson Austin.

Haiti

CATH Calls for 24-Hour General Strike

FL1201132289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH] is calling for a general strike next Tuesday, 17 January, to make the government take into account the Haitian people's desires. During a news conference, CATH members drew up a negative balance sheet of the Avril government's 4 months in power. The unionists reproach President Avril for his indifference to popular demands.

This 24-hour general strike is being called by CATH in solidarity with the soldiers who were recently discharged from the Haitian Armed Forces. The strike is also in solidarity with Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, recently expelled from the Salesian Order.

CATH Executive Secretary Jean Auguste Mesyeux, who issued this strike call, presents a list of complaints.

[Begin Mesyeux recording in Creole] We of the CATH—in solidarity with all the workers who have been fired and who cannot manage to form unions, all the small vendors who are suffering, all the peasants who are being subjected to a very high cost of living, and all the children of the Haitian people who died in the massacre Franck Romain effected at Saint Jean Bosco Church on 11 September—have decided to launch a 24-hour general strike on Tuesday, 17 January 1989, to ask:

First, that the workers from Acierie d'Haiti, Athletic Equipment, and Omicron, as well as all other workers who have been fired for union activity, be rehired;

B. [as heard] that all macoute judges on the Labor Court be fired;

C. that the minimum salary be 35 gourdes;

D. that the Dominican Government be made to give Haitian agricultural laborers [braceros] a legal status so that they can organize and defend their interests as workers in the Dominican Republic;

E. that the small vendors be given protection in the Dominican Republic, and that the Dominican Consulate be made to give them back the money stolen from them;

F. that the special tax label [vinyet] on the identification card be eliminated and that the taxes that peasants have to pay be lowered;

G. that the government set a date for reopening the Darbonne sugar mill to create employment for all the peasants of Leogane.

Second, [as heard] that Franck Romain be extradited, as a common criminal;

B. [as heard] that William Regala, who has just reentered Haiti—as well as all the macoutes who participated directly or indirectly in the Jean-Rabel, (Danty), (Labadie), 29 November, Saint Jean Bosco, and other massacres—be brought to trial;

A. [as heard] that the price of gasoline and all other articles of prime necessity be lowered. [end recording]

Auguste also says that this call for a general strike has already been endorsed by several popular organizations.

The government declared the last general strike called by the CATH last November illegal. What will happen if the government maintains this same attitude as regards the 17 January 1989 strike? Mesyeux answers this question:

[Begin Mesyeux recording in Creole] [Passage omitted] If the government declares the strike illegal, that means that it considers the Haitian people's demands illegal too. [end recording]

Political Groups Voice Support

FL1301164689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH], one of the country's three union federations, yesterday in Port-au-Prince called for a general strike on 17 January against the national bourgeoisie and oligarchy. [passage omitted]

Several other political and union organizations—among them the People's National Assembly, APN; the Haitian Workers Committee, COH; and the League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners, [LAPPH]—have endorsed the strike order, CATH officials stated.

They recognize this as an essential element in the compliance with the sugar plan of each CAI, with the required quality and on the indicated date.

This season 69 percent of the cane will be harvested by machine. Both the operators and those who provide the indispensable services of technical-material support, as well as the brigades of harvesters and the teams in charge of organizational control, must conscientiously pledge to fulfill the plans for mechanized cutting.

A better and more timely organization of the usual manual cutting crews, selectively placing the most experienced and senior cutters, should result this year in higher levels of productivity per man.

Thanks to our veterans, as well as the greenhorns wielding the "mocha" [type of machete], regular agricultural workers, volunteers, and soldiers of the Youth Labor Army (EJT), plus the men who work on the machines, there should be no task left undone in the cane fields, and there should be no interruption of milling work due to the lack of cane.

Of particular importance in this harvest will be the strict compliance with technical standards for cutting, lifting and throwing; the functioning of each storage and cleaning center; and the uninterrupted transportation of clean and fresh cane to the sugar mill.

Whether or not we achieve the increased efficiency that is our aim in this harvest also depends on technological discipline in industrial operations, on strict compliance with maintenance and cleaning standards and programs, on the stability of daily milling, and on all stages of the process that culminates in the manufacture of top-quality sugar.

The teams of sugar technicians, which combine the wisdom of the most experienced workers and technicians with the impetus of thousands of young specialists trained by the Revolution, under the sure and capable leadership of the cadres, will be able to seek and find at every moment and in every situation the best alternatives to solve the myriad and sometimes very difficult technological and operational problems that characterize the dynamic of the milling period. This is particularly so in our present situation, given our severely limited material and financial resources.

It is precisely the sagacity and willingness of these teams to confront and solve these problems on their own, rather than waiting for solutions to be brought to them from outside, that will determine in large measure whether we attain the success we desire in this great harvest.

The harvest will now coincide with the cold planting, which is late this year and requires a vigorous effort. Then will come the no less demanding spring program, between January and April. These plantings will lay the indispensable foundation for a still larger harvest in 1990.

Thus, it is a matter of differentiating and organizing resources and forces properly so that the harvest and the planting can both progress simultaneously.

Moreover, during the months of the harvest, other tasks of sugar growing must proceed normally, including weeding the fields and irrigating regularly, draining immediately and providing adequate fertilizers, so that the yield of the cane fields can continue to grow.

The sustained effort for scientific-technical progress in our sugar agroindustry obliges us to continue, at the same time as the harvest, the development of our programs for new varieties, mechanization, the biological struggle, and the promising cane derivatives, which will become exportable products, stable sources of animal feed, and primary components in the products of various sectors of the economy.

Actually achieving this integral approach to our work and progressing in all these top-priority tasks for the country in the next few months, without affecting all the socioeconomic development programs and plans that are taking place in each territory, is such an important goal, both politically and economically, that there is no room for error. We have the experience, the knowledge, the determination, and the minimum resources that are absolutely indispensable. We simply must do it right and do it well.

We must make sure that this upsurge in labor spirit, expressed today in the exemplary attitude of the Advance Contingents, extends to all of the simultaneous tasks that lie ahead in the coming months.

And this will be manifested, specifically, in the duty to conclude each day with work well done; in personal responsibility and discipline to ensure that each working day is utilized to the utmost, and that all material resources, especially energy, are conserved through the better use and care of machinery, equipment, and tools; and in an intransigent attitude toward all failures of discipline and behaviors that lead to new vices or represent an effort to restore the negative tendencies and immoral practices that prevailed prior to the rectification process.

This is the attitude that should characterize Cuban cane cutters and sugar workers. They must also follow the example of the thousands of heroes and heroines who, from the first harvests by the people, have forged one of our most beautiful revolutionary traditions.

This is one more test of the ability of our Communist vanguard, of the cadres and members of the Party, of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) and the unions, especially that of the sugar workers, of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), and of the other mass organizations that in one way or another contribute to the motivation and effective mobilization of all forces, to carry a great harvest to its successful completion in this 30th year of the triumph of the Revolution.

* Reduced Number of Medical Certificates Noted

32480055 [Editorial Report] The Spanish-language newspaper GRANMA on 1 December 1988 reports on page 2 that the implementation of CETSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security] Resolution 170 governing the issuing of medical certificates has had positive results in all provinces. At a CETSS meeting with provincial department heads of Assistance and Social Security it was noted that excessive and fraudulent absenteeism through the use of medical certificates has been checked. It was further reported that some workers have been given authorized absences for other excuses. To counteract this development additional measures will be adopted to complement Resolution 170. Finally, it was reported that the workload in medical centers has dropped. For example, during the first half of October, the Manuel Fajardo Hospital issued 246 certificates as opposed to 200 certificates issued daily before the resolution went into effect.

Inter-Caribbean

CTO 'To Review' Cuban, Other Admissions

FL1201212289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1650 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 12, CANA—The Caribbean Council of Tourism Ministers have put Cuba, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic on hold regarding their applications for membership in the newly created Caribbean Tourism Organisation [CTO]. They have voted to form a committee to review requests for admission to the tourism body.

Meeting in Barbados Wednesday, the last day of a two-day meeting of the CTO, the Council of Ministers had lengthy discussions on issues which also included applications for funds under the Third Lome convention linking Europe and developing countries, and the question of the link between tourism and drugs, but did not appear to have reached any major decisions on any of these issues.

The question of the application for membership, especially by Cuba, has been a major talking point over the two-day meeting, in light of the suggested effect that Cuban membership could have on funding from the United States.

The decision was deferred to the council by the CTO Board of Directors from their meeting on Tuesday, as they claimed that it was a "policy decision" that needed to be taken up by ministers "at the highest political level". But the ministers decided to postpone the decision until possibly March this year when the CTO board meets, followed shortly by a meeting of the ministers once again.

The decision on membership "will be on hold definitely," Barbados Tourism Minister Wes Hall told a press conference to announce the outcome of the minister's meeting at the Heywoods Resort Hotel on the west coast of the island.

Hall, elected chairman of the meeting, indicated that the committee appointed would include representatives from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Curacao, the Bahamas, Anguilla, and St Kitts and Nevis, whose representative will be the chairman.

On the question of Lome 111 funding through the European Economic Community's tourism programme, Secretary General of the CTO, Jean Holder, said that after reviewing the draft evaluations of Lome I and 11 which were sought by the EEC, the council had taken certain decisions on how they would like to see the Lome 111 tourism programme effected.

The members agreed to seek a funding of some U.S. 10.4 million dollars from the programme to be divided amongst the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Caribbean Hotel Training School and Caribbean Hotel Institute.

They are also seeking to have the new programme cover marketing, research and statistics, and training and education. They said that the programme should continue under the broad umbrella of the CTO with no detriment to the development of sub-regional programmes, and that the CTO should undertake to draft a comprehensive programme for discussion with the European commission. Holder said that the proposals by the council would, of course, have to go back to the EEC for its consideration.

On the question of the drug and tourism link, Hall said that an interim report on the issue had been discussed but a more comprehensive report is expected with the inclusion of the reports of other member countries. Out of this they expect to decide at some later date on measures that could be implemented on drug prevention.

Earlier in the day Hall had called for harmonisation of government policies on tourism and a total commitment from member countries to the tourism thrust in the region, stating that it was his belief that "the future of tourism lies in the hands of the tourism ministers because we understand fully that tourism means a great deal to the economies of our region."

British Virgin Islands

Three Permanent Secretaries Reshuffled

FL1301221789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Road Town, Tortola, Jan 13, CANA—Three of the four permanent secretaries in the British Virgin Islands Government have been re-assigned, the deputy governors office reported.

"Gov. J. Mark Herdman ordered the assignments to other ministries following consultation with the public service commission," the office said in a statement circulated in Road Town.

Most of these organizations were involved in last 21 November's general strike, termed a warning strike, against the Avril government. This strike caused a serious slowdown in economic activity in Port-au-Prince and certain provincial towns.

Drivers Union Calls for Antigovernment Action

FL1301205589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Metropolitan Area Public Transport Drivers Union [Sendika Chofe Transpo Piblik Zonn Metropolitenn] says that it is a popular organization that cannot remain silent over the current situation in Haiti, a situation that is deteriorating daily. The union says it notes that the problems are increasing daily, and that all of these problems have a single goal: to obstruct the struggle of the Haitian people, which is struggling for a better life. [passage omitted]

The union says that the conservative forces and the enemies of change, wherever they are, all over the country—in the Army and all other institutions—are doing everything they can to eliminate all those who are in favor of change. [passage omitted]

All these maneuvers have a single goal: to preserve macoute power, to muzzle the entire Haitian people so that they can continue to (?rob it blind).

The union says: The straw that broke the camel's back is the safe-conduct that the Avril-Heubreux government gave Franck Romain, right in the face of the Justice Department, so he could go to the Dominican Republic to have a good time and plot against the Haitian people.

The union federation says there is no other solution. All the suffering masses must rise up together to force the players to reshuffle the deck. And the union asks all drivers throughout Haiti to remain mobilized and to await a watchword from the union.

PUCH's Theodore Comments on Election Forum

FL1101183389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] In the speech he made on 1 January 1989, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, announced his intention to soon hold a forum of representatives of political parties, political organizations, and the government to draw up the decree setting up an institution to organize general elections in Haiti.

The political party Mobilization for National Development [MDN] says it likes the idea and is interested in all concertedness and dialogue capable of contributing to the end of the crisis in Haiti and accelerating the democratic process. [passage omitted]

The draft decree, we remind you, was submitted to all political parties for them to critique. Many political leaders did so. Most of them did not like it at all and were not at all satisfied with the draft decree.

According to the leader of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] [Rene Theodore], this draft decree is the result of the same form of government as in the past. These governments have been doing this for a long time, and have never been able to win the trust of the Haitian people. Theodore says this is the consequence of a government based on personal power. Now, says Theodore, it is quite difficult for there to be a normal democratic process with a view to organizing credible, honest elections, because of the Haitian people's wariness of the military government. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] [Passage omitted] In the last analysis, no political party was satisfied with the draft decree proposed by the government. A second initiative the government took—which is to be made concrete in the coming weeks—is to hold a forum on the matter of elections.

As far as we of the PUCH are concerned, we pointed out from the very beginning a basic problem—from the very first approach to the matter of elections, and the decree that the government had drafted: the problem of the form of government itself.

We think, and we have said this repeatedly, that the current form of government, a military government, which is practically the expression of personal power just as before, and which does not constitute a break with that practice—I mean, which did not involve us in taking charge of, for example, the country's political problems, the administration of the country, together, within the framework of a coalition government—has thus not gone beyond the system of personal power. And that is why to this day none of the governments that have come to power in the form of a personal power has managed to acquire the trust of the Haitian people—because the people have not participated in them. [end recording]

Asked if the nation's democratic and political sectors will participate in this forum, Rene Theodore said yes, adding that as for him, he would participate normally in this great forum in order to begin a serious dialogue capable of resulting in a consensus to replace the military government.

He also spoke of a government of national coalition without, however, expressing a desire to uproot [derasine] the military government, as many political parties and leaders do, particularly after the Franck Romain affair. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] That is why we say that the problem that is the order of the day, the most important problem, is not the matter of elections. It is the government [pouvwa] itself, the form of government currently existing, and how we can get beyond this form.

We ourselves propose a coalition government. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mr Theodore refused to make any statements on his political party's participation in future elections in Haiti. When we asked him if his party would run candidates at all levels in future elections or not, Mr Theodore said that he could not as yet make any statement on that matter. [passage omitted]

Other Groups React to Forum

FL1301171589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] There have been new stands taken regarding the forum on the Electoral College [of Haiti, or CEDHA]. President Avril announced last 1 January that such a forum would be held soon. Certain party leaders would like the forum to be postponed until February, and have written letters to the president of the military government to that effect. For its part, however, Reverend Sylvio Claude's Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] feels the forum is a trap into which the government is trying to lead the democratic sector.

Two party leaders have addressed open letters to the chief of state, General Prosper Avril, in which they ask that the date of the colloquy on the CEDHA be set back. After a number of comments and suggestions, Serges Gilles, coordinator of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, asks that the chief of state postpone the forum until next February so as to permit the democratic sector to reach a consensus on the conditions under which it is willing to participate.

Dejean Belizaire and (Max Pean), officials of the MNP-28 [National Patriotic Movement of 28 November] have had the same reaction, also asking that the forum be postponed until later. [passage omitted]

Rev Sylvio Claude's PDCH, for its part, is wary of the government. The PDCH's general secretariat asks—and we quote—all sectors involved in the battle for the respect of the Constitution of 1987 to not let themselves be attracted or drawn into the trap of a forum, which is just a maneuver aimed at setting aside the safeguards [garde-fous] against the government's controlling elections that are found in the Constitution—end quote.

For its part, Marc Bazin's MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] declares itself ready to participate in any forum on the CEDHA on the condition that the ways and means of such a forum's organization be clearly defined. The MIDH's political director, Claude Roumain, announced this yesterday. He also said that the MIDH has not as yet received any invitation from the government to such a forum on the CEDHA. Claude Roumain feels it is important that an electoral council capable of organizing democratic elections in Haiti be formed, but says the organization of these elections must be impeccable [parfaites] so as to avoid even the slightest mess.

[Begin Roumain recording in Creole] [Passage omitted] So we have not yet received any invitation. We are waiting to receive an invitation, waiting for them to reach a definite decision regarding the ways and means of this meeting—for them to tell us what will be discussed, and with whom—before taking a definitive position on this problem.

For our part, until we see proof to the contrary we feel there is a need for us to sit down and draft a final text, which should be a consensus from the political parties that truly believe in democracy and elections, so that we can have a good, independent, electoral council to organize the elections.

As far as we are concerned, that is what is at stake here. We must not use this as a political pretext for settling other matters. The purpuse of this CEDHA thing is so that we can come up with a good, truly independent electoral council and a good decree to govern this council's functioning. As far as we are concerned, this is the real issue. [passage omitted]

We must take, however, as much time as we need, so as to organize proper elections in which the Haitian people will have participated and which they will find satisfactory. [end recording]

Contraband 'Problem,' Solutions Discussed

President Holds Meeting

FL1101184289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] A Ministry of Information and Coordination press release announces that the president of the Republic, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, held an important work meeting at the National Palace yesterday, 9 January 1989, on the problem of contraband in Haiti. The chief of state summoned to this meeting the interim commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the ministers of interior and national defense, economy and finance, commerce and industry, and information and coordination; several people from the Office of the Director General of the General Customs Administration; the military commanders of different Haitian Armed Forces units; customs officials from all our provincial towns; and officials from the anti-contraband brigades. [passage omitted]

The president appealed to everyone present, to the patriotic and moral responsibility of all the participants in the meeting, asking them to put their heads together to staunch the flow of contraband, which is ruining the country.

The chief of state also discussed the responsibility of the public powers and the Haitian Government's commitment to have respected and applied normally the measures adopted during this meeting (?aimed at identifying and solving the problem). This is a condition sine qua non for a revival of the nation's economic activity. It is also the only way to ensure that the Haitian Government will be able to quickly undertake several labor-intensive projects so as to lower unemployment in Haiti and increase the buying power and improve the living conditions of the Haitian people. [passage omitted]

Anticontraband Measures Cited

FL1201143289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Ministries of Economy and Finance, Commerce and Industry, and Interior and National Defense have adopted a number of measures which the government says are aimed at fighting false invoicing [la sous-facturation] and contraband. Importers will have to be prepared to present either an import permit or a document of prior notice of intent to import at all ports and airports open to foreign trade. Also, all documents necessary to get merchandise out of customs will have to be included in the dossier.

Consular invoices for all imported merchandise have been reestablished. These invoices must be presented to get the merchandise out of customs. However, these consular fees will be payable in Haiti.

Another measure is that all vessels unloading merchandise will have to pay port fees—mooring fees, wharfage, etc—as stipulated in the manual of port tariffs.

A vessel will be forbidden to enter a Haitian port if it does not have an authorized representative on site. Also, vessels are temporarily forbidden to unload in provincial ports until the port has been given an adequate structure. Thus, vessels are forbidden to unload cars and mechanical equipment in provincial ports until the ports are provided with an adequate structure.

Except for Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien, all Haitian ports will be open from 0800 to 1600.

Surveillance posts along the national highways will be increased and the anti-contraband brigade's actions will be strengthened.

Finally, all vessels registered as vessels for coastal trade are forbidden to engage in international maritime traffic.

The three ministries say they are aware of how seriously contraband endangers the national economy and of the serious threat it brings to weigh on the very foundations of the Haitian Government. Therefore, the government wishes to remind everyone that contraband is a crime that will not be tolerated, and it appeals to the population's good citizenship and asks for its collaboration to help the government put an end to this practice, which is prejudicial to the progress of the entire nation.

The communique has been signed by Economy and Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma, Commerce and Industry Minister Yvon Cesar, and Interior and National Defense Minister Carl Dorsainvil.

Chamber of Commerce Comments

FL1301172389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the government measures aimed at stopping contraband and false invoicing, vehicles and mechanical equipment will temporarily not be allowed to enter provincial ports. The Chamber of Commerce hopes that these measures will be applied strictly, and would like to see the temporary interdiction to unload vehicles and mechanical equipment in provincial ports extended to all merchandise in general. [passage omitted]

Expressing the hope that all these [anti-contraband] measures will be applied strictly, the Chamber of Commerce says it is alarmed by the rash of break-ins of stores that are being perpetrated in the capital and asks the authorities to redouble their vigilance with a view to putting an end to this situation. The Chamber of Commerce points out that the number of such incidents during a single month and in a single sector constitutes a challenge by the evildoers to the police forces, and expresses the hope that the police will take emergency action with spectacular results, so that the commercial and industrial community will be reassured.

Further Reaction to Romain Safe-Conduct

Political Groups Respond

FL1101201089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The granting of a safe-conduct to Franck Romain continues to give rise to vigorous reaction. Certain leaders such as Rockefeller Guerre, Sylvio Claude, and Nicolas Estiverne are demanding that the government resign. [passage omitted]

In Cap Haitien, reactions unfavorable to the government's granting of a safe-conduct to former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain, who is accused of serious crimes, are beginning to polarize public attention.

The Center for the Promotion of Human Rights [Centre de Promotion des Droits Humains] headed by (Ramos Andre) sees in the government's decision the overt intention to not judge the criminals involved in the massacre committed by the men with the red armbands [reference to the Saint Jean Bosco Church killings of 11 September 1988]; and it asks other human rights organizations to reconsider their position as regards their possible participation in a new investigating committee.

IFPO, the Union of Popular Forces of Cap Haitien [Inyon Fo Popile Nan Okap], in a statement read to the press on 9 January by IFPO member Manigat Joseph, has pointed out the government's Tonton Macoute reflex.

AJPB, the Association of Young Peasants of Bois de Lance, first communal section of Limonade, located some 18 km from Cap Haitien, has in an extremely virulent manner criticized the government and the Catholic Church, which it calls the (?government's fellow-candidate), after the Aristide affair. Listen to their position statement.

[Begin AJPB member (Daniel Elie) recording, in Creole] We members of the AJPB were heartsick to learn that Prosper Avril and Heubreux gave a common criminal like Franck Romain proper papers so he could get away

from the Justice Department and go hide in the Dominican Republic. This shows us clearly that Prosper Avril, as commander of the Palace Guard under Namphy, knew about the Saint Jean Bosco massacre, and he was involved in that genocide.

We will say it again: The Prosper Avril government and the U.S. Government have permitted Franck Romain to go join the other macoutes in the Dominican Republic so that they can prepare an even greater massacre of the Haitian people.

We can understand how all hopes of establishing democracy in the country are over.

Friends, ever since we heard that Prosper Avril had come to power, it was already clear that nothing was really going to change, for Avril is the product of 30 years of the macoute regime.

This also shows us that the Vatican has realized the marriage of the macoute church and the macoute Army. While Prosper Avril is throwing out the patriotic soldiers, the Episcopal Conference is for its part booting out progressive priests. Thus the bishops have thrown Father Aristide out of the Salesian community. [end recording]

That statement was read by an AJPB member, Mr (Daniel Elie). [passage omitted]

Cap Haitien Committees Cited

FL1301200789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The neighborhood committees in Cap Haitien have something to say about the safe-conduct to leave the country that the Avril-Heubreux government has given Franck Romain. The neighborhood committees say they are not going to go on and on complaining about it, but that it is something that the Haitian people should file away in their heads.

The Cap Haitien neighborhood committees point the finger at candidates who can think of nothing but elections, despite the fact that there has not yet been a cleanup in Haiti. The committees say that they in the north are not into elections. They invite those familiar with the history of Haitian-Dominican relations to tell them what benefits have ever befallen the Haitian people from these relations.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] What we want to do is to ensure that such crooked wheeling and dealing does not occur again and that the country (?sanctions) everyone involved. In passing, we say to the Avril government that it has dealt us a blow, the blow hurt, and we don't like it. We also say to it that we are still waiting to hear a good explanation from the Avril government—so that we will know who to add to the list of guilty parties that we already have drawn up.

The (?handshake being tendered) at present is that the Justice Department is going to make them return Franck Romain to Haiti so he can be brought to trial. Uh-huh! Sure! They are going to make Romain return! Just as they made Jean-Claude Duvalier return! Just as they made Michele and Jean-Claude's fortune return! Just as they made Ti-Boule [Colonel Albert Pierre] return!

Let's take a look to see just how this miracle could take place. In order for this to happen, the Justice Department would have to....[changes thought] Uh-oh! Our Justice Department? Forget it! Everyone in Haiti knows that the Justice Ministry is the weakest, stupidest ministry in the cabinet.

We say to all little flunky candidates—who, while the country is being tripped up, are themselves already focused on elections—that we will get them later! We here in the department of the north say to the entire nation that we don't even want to hear talk of elections before a cleanup is effected from top to bottom. We are going to remain mobilized because we know that a man alone is weak, that together we are strong, and that all together we constitute an avalanche. [end recording]

Joint Symposium With Dominican Teachers Held

FL1101184789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Several members of the National Confederation of Haitian Instructors, CNEH, held a news conference yesterday in which they gave an account of the symposium they organized together with the Dominican Teachers Association. [passage omitted]

For his part, the CNEH's administrative secretary pointed out that it is the big powers and the Haitian and Dominican Governments that always undermine relations between the Haitian and Dominican peoples.

[Begin CNEH secretary recording] [Passage omitted] For example, we do not find it exceptional that someone like Franck Romain is currently in the Dominican Republic. This is a common practice between the two governments. They collaborate to defend the interests of a small group of people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Alleged Killer Reportedly in Dominican Republic

FL1301203089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] David Philogene, former section chief of (Opak), a communal section of Leogane, who is the main person accused in the murder of Louis Eugene Athis and several of his fellow Modelh-PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti-Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] companions, is currently in the Dominican Republic, swelling the ranks of Haitian authorities accused of crimes or thefts against the Haitian people.

[Correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon] (?Neighbors of) David Philogene, former section chief of the 7th communal section, (Opak), who was accused of being the principal author of the murder of Louis Eugene Athis, inform us that Philogene has gone off to hide in the

is responsible for everything that is happening to us, because it is he who chose Prosper Avril as president. [passage omitted] [end recording]

However, the men also told us that they had not received any letter saying they had been discharged. The commander of the military district of the Grande Anse simply called them in to inform them that they were no longer part of the Army, according to orders he had received directly from the Armed Forces General Headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

Last week, Lieutenant (Possible), the commander of the military district here, was transferred to La Gonave, as was Lieutenant (Marcellus, Jean Vernet); and Lieutenant (Beus, Joseph) was transferred to Port-de-Paix.

Also, the Association of Young Democrats of Saint Helene [Asosyasyon Demokrat Jen Sentelen] has taken a stand against the safe-conduct given Franck Romain by the government so he could go to the Dominican Republic. [passage omitted]

They say that every time the Haitian people rise up to ask for change, there is always a column of birds of prey present to block their path. [passage omitted] They ask that the government make reparations for what it has done and bring Franck Romain back from the Dominican Republic to stand trial. [passage omitted]

Alleged American Drug Dealer Arrested

FL1201140389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Report by Cap Haitien correspondent (Curis Maxino)]

[Excerpt] Last Friday, 6 January, at around 2300, the police at the Barriere Bouteille outpost picked up a lady tied hand and foot who had managed to throw herself out of a vehicle. The woman, whose name is (Caroline), said that her husband, (Robert Hall), an American, wanted to kill her because he was afraid she might denounce him to the police. The woman said that she was aware that she was running a big risk by continuing to associate with Mr (Robert Hall). She said that she had tried desperately to distance herself from him but had been unable to do so, because he was opposed to the idea.

In statements to journalists at Hopital Justinien, where she was taken for treatment, (Caroline) said that (Robert Hall) is a hired assassin and drug dealer whom Interpol has been seeking for some time now. She said he has several passports and that the Haitian police have already arrested him several times.

On the afternoon of Saturday 7 January, the Cap Haitien police captured (Robert Hall).

A search of his house in the vicinity of (Rue Val) in Cite Lescot on the night of 6 January in the presence of the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Cap Haitien turned up some very sophisticated telecommunications equipment for boats and planes and a number of big floodlights to permit planes to land at night.

Also, it has been reported that Mrs (Hall), (Caroline), asked the police to release her husband, but the police wouldn't do it because the Justice Department had already been brought into the matter. [passage omitted]

Police Seize Cocaine in Cap Haitien

FL1301173489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Report by Cap Haitien correspondent Jimmy Prophete]

[Text] At approximately 1945 on Wednesday 11 January 1989, in the port of Cap Haitien, the police found 10 kg of cocaine on the boat ("Lovely Honey"), which belongs to Mr (Nathan), who is from Cap Haitien. The drug had been hidden in a container and was found after a search that began at 1700.

Certain circles assume the police was alerted to the presence of the merchandise by an informer.

The boat's captain—who is an American—and one sailor were arrested. The boat's owner, Mr (Nathan), is currently in the United States.

For their part, police authorities think there are still some 50 kg of cocaine remaining to be found.

Allocation of Namphy Pensions Criticized

FL1101185789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Ministry of Economy and Finance has decided to give 33 citizens pensions for having worked as civil servants. The Economy Ministry's notice to this effect appeared in LE MONITEUR [the official gazette] of 15 December.

Among those awarded a pension is a development adviser for the Moron area under the Namphy government, Joseph Divers. He was given a pension of some 4,000 gourdes; Dr (Victor Cipri), former medical director of Isaie Jeanty Hospital, and (Leon Dodin), Chancerelles, were given (?pensions) of 2,812.50 gourdes.

These allocations are not based on anything at all. If you compare these two people and these two pensions, there is no logic in it. We could make other such comparisons on this same list.

The important question is: How important is a development adviser, really? The development advisers played no role whatsoever in the development of the country during the 3 months of the Namphy government in comparison with a number of other positions such as former ambassador, accountant, justice of the peace, etc.

Jamaica

Seaga Calls for 9 Feb General Elections

FL1601114789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga has named February the 9th to be the date for general elections. In calling this election he has also asked for an unprecedented third term in office. Mr Seaga made the

announcement in Kingston yesterday. He trails Michael Manley and the opposition Peoples' National Party in the popularity polls but he claims he needs another term in office to carry out wide-ranging social programs. The election will be the first contested general vote in Jamaica since 1980.

Nomination Day 23 Jan

FL1601135589 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Jamaica will go to the polls on Thursday February 9th. It's the country's sixth general election since independence in 1962. Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who made the announcement last night, said nomination day will be next Monday, January 23d.

[Begin Seaga recording] Nomination day will be on Monday January 23d [crowd cheers] and election day will be on Tuesday [as heard] February 9th. [crowd cheers] I'm sorry if I said Tuesday; it is Thursday the 9th. [Words indistinct] is the shortest possible election period. [end recording]

The announcement came at the end of a speech which lasted more than an hour in which Mr Seaga compared the performance of the PNP [People's National Party] administration and the JLP [Jamaica Labor Party] administration in recent years. Last night's meeting at (?Sir Alexander statue), a parade in downtown Kingston, was the climax of the JLP's road to victory island-wide motorcade.

Further on Seaga Speech

FL1601133689 Bridgetown CANA in English 0438 GMT 16 Jan 89

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 15, CANA—Jamaicans will vote in general elections on February 9, Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced here Sunday night. Seaga said January 23 will be nomination day.

The prime minister, whose Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is seeking an unprecedented third consecutive term in office, announced the election date at a major rally in Kingston after campaigning over the past week in western Jamaica.

However, Seaga, in making the announcement blundered by saying that the election would be on a Tuesday, when in fact February 9 will be a Thursday.

"There is a feeling that no party should get a third term, it is a tradition," he declared. "But I say to you, you have to forget tradition, don't be bound in a mold." "We have to make our own and one that we must make is that we must follow good management to the end. We must follow the better team to the end," Seaga told thousands of wildly cheering and bell-ringing supporters. The bell is the symbol of the JLP.

Seaga election announcement was heralded by a new opinion poll saying that the JLP trailed its main rival, Michael Manley's Peoples' National Party (PNP) by six per cent among committed voters. The poll by Market researcher, Don Anderson, carried out earlier this month, gave the PNP a 53 per cent support to the PNP against 47 per cent for the JLP.

According to those figures the JLP had lost the half a point Anderson said it had picked up from the PNP during a December survey. However, Anderson's poll has a 3.1 per cent margin of error. But Anderson's poll, which said that the PNP leads by eight of Jamaica's 14 parishes, five of them comfortably, would provide greater encouragement for the ruling party than the most recent survey by top pollster, Professor Carl Stone. Stone's December poll said the PNP's support among committed voters was 57.8, against 42.2 per cent. The pollster, who has been accurately forecasting election results here since 1972, expected the PNP to win at least 45 seats in the 60-member House of Representatives.

The election is expected to be a straight fight between the JLP and the PNP, though a few fringe parties and some independents are expected to be on the periphery of the fray.

The Marxist Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ), the longest surviving third party here that is now seriously wracked by internal ideological and policy squabbles, has said that it will not field candidates.

It is to be the first seriously fought election here since the violence-riddled poll of 1980 when Seaga defeated Manley to gain the government. An estimated 700 persons died in that campaign.

The PNP boycotted snap elections in December 1983, charging that the voters register was outdated and that the government had failed to implement agreed voter reforms. Seaga won all the parliamentary seats, but the PNP gained a landslide in local government elections in July.

In his Sunday night speech, Seaga painted Manley's tenure in office in the 1970's as one of unmitigated disaster for Jamaica, when the economy slid and crime and violence reigned.

His own eight years had shown economy recovery, the restoration peace of and stability and the restoration of friendly and stable relationships with traditional friends, such as the United States, with which Manley's relations had chilled.

These were "missions accomplished," Seaga said, adding that his government needed the third term to complete his social services policies, pulled together in a document called the "social well-being programme." "That is going to be the mission of the third term," he declared.

Dominican Republic. When the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Petit Goave sent him a summons last 10 December to appear in court, Philogene was nowhere to be found.

A few days ago the news reached Leogane that, like all the other bigshots, David Philogene has gone to swell the ranks of the group in the Dominican Republic, which has of late become a country that receives all torturers and criminals coming out of Haiti.

There is much wondering going on following Philogene's flight.

These same people said that the authorities must reinvestigate the Athis murder because—these people say—during the first investigation by the National Government Council, the people chosen to testify were carefully chosen so as to present the desired picture. They say that if Prosper Avril's military government wants to reinvestigate, there are people in (Opak) who witnessed the crime and who can give the Justice Department accurate information so that it can catch the rest of the people who participated in the murder of Louis Eugene Athis, Oscar Dongervil, and Francois Jean. And one never knows! The Justice Department might even discover who was really responsible for this crime!

This is Jean Wilfrid Napoleon, Radio Soleil, Leogane.

'Racketeers' Arrested at Immigration Offices

FL1201153589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Monday afternoon, several armed civilians arrested some eight small racketeers in front of the Immigration Service offices. According to one racketeer who hangs around the Immigration Service offices to expedite getting a passport for people who are in a hurry, a civilian vehicle belonging to the Armed Forces appeared at the Immigration Service offices and arrested eight racketeers and an Immigration Service employee and took them to the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service [formerly the Criminal Investigations Department]. However, several racketeers think the new director of the Immigration Service asked the police to make these arrests. [passage omitted]

Roland Magloire, deputy director general of Immigration, says Immigration has nothing whatsoever to do with the arrest of these men. In fact, he said, the military arrested an Immigration Service employee too.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Why were these people arrested?

[Magloire] Well, the director general and I just discussed this matter. We do not yet have information as to why they were arrested, nor who was arrested. We are for all practical purposes still in the dark regarding this matter.

[Reporter] But they arrested an Immigration Service employee, too. Why did they say they had arrested this employee?

[Magloire] Precisely, they arrested him in the context of the arrests made outside. However, we have not yet clarified this point either. We are trying to obtain information to see if anything happened at the moment of arrest, to see if the employee identified himself properly, and to see if the police had a special reason. I don't think so, because all we did was send an inspector, and they immediately released him.

[Reporter] Yes, but if they arrested and then released him, there must have been a reason for arresting him!

[Magloire] He himself doesn't know the reason either. He apparently just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'False Passports' Involved

FL1301213089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A number of arrests were made last Monday in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service offices on Lalue [also known as Avenue John Brown] in Port-au-Prince. The police raided the area in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service offices and some 10-15 people, many of them experts in the habit of making false passports, were arrested.

The raid was aimed not only at cleaning up the area in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service building, but was also in support of an investigation being conducted by the [Investigations and] Anti-Gang Service involving a false passport confiscated by the Immigration-Emigration Service at Port-au-Prince International Airport.

During this raid, the police not only cleaned up the area but also chased off all the (?petty criminals) and street people who hang around (?committing crimes) in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service building.

The police also confiscated material used in the work of these men.

We remind listeners that an Immigration-Emigration Service employee was also arrested on this occasion, but he was released after the service's director general, Mr (Franck Bonhomme), intervened on his behalf.

Thus, that is currently the situation in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service offices. All the racketeers who used to operate in front of the building have now been cleared out by the police, and we think things should remain more or less clean for a while in front of the Immigration-Emigration Service offices on Lalue in Port-au-Prince.

Heavy Highway Shooting Causes Concern

FL1201154489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Report by Arcahaie correspondent Marc Lesly Ambroise]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There was a lot of shooting Monday night on National Highway No 1 in the vicinity of (Pont Calebasse), not far from (Carrefour Pois). The population was very concerned, particularly the people in (Saint Medard), (Pont Calebasse), (Carrefour Pois), and several other neighboring areas.

They told us no one was ever able to discover who was doing the shooting, but said they suspected that it was a number of groups of thieves—come from afar in vehicles, with heavy-caliber, murderous weapons—who were causing the population's concern. [passage omitted]

Transport Workers Union Protests Recent Crimes

FL1301204889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] We have here a press release from the Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions [CSTH]. The CSTH, affiliated with the FOS, [Federation of Workers Trade Unions] invites all its members to a big meeting for planning purposes to be held on Sunday, 15 January 1989, at 1630 at the usual place—No 115 Rue des Miracles. Also, the CSTH expresses its shock at hearing about how a band of armed criminals is going around committing vile crimes against drivers of public transportation vehicles, who are performing an important service for the country. The CSTH vigorously urges the authorities to do something about the matter of insecurity, which is beginning to affect the public transportation sector, which is such a fragile sector. [passage omitted]

Petit Goave Citizens 'Living in Fear'

FL1301212489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpts] The big news these days is the matter of insecurity, which continues to cause many citizens, both male and female, much grief, for both their property and their lives are in danger.

Thus, in the first plain of Petit Goave in [words indistinct] village of Fond Douze, (Edlyne Eustache), a merchant in the area, told us that on Wednesday 11 January 1989, at around 0100, a team of thieves appeared in the area. They stood in the street and shot off two bursts of gunfire at her house. Immediately after, they broke into the house.

When the bandits got inside the house, they turned everything topsy turvy, looking for money. They gave a young man who was in the house many slaps in the face and bound both his arms behind his back. (Eustache) says these assassins, who had backpacks, entered the room where she lay and stole more than $4,000—money she was supposed to pay in Port-au-Prince—as well as much merchandise.

Also, these assassins—of which there were some 12—split up into two groups. Six of them stayed inside the house robbing it, while the other six stayed outside to sow fear in the streets by firing off a bunch of rounds.

People who were following events by watching through cracks in the door said these thieves—who came from the direction of Port-au-Prince—had left their (?automobiles) a good distance from (Eustache's) house. [passage omitted]

We again point out that many citizens, both male and female, who are living in fear are asking why the police search cars on the national highways only during the day. They say they think it would be a good idea for the police to do this at night also, because that is when thieves and murderers are out in the streets. [passage omitted]

Youths, Soldiers Clash in Cap-Haitien

FL1601173289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] In Haiti over the weekend youths and soldiers had a confrontation outside a burning house in Cap-Haitien. The youths had been helping firemen put out the fire of a dwelling when an argument ensued between nearby soldiers and the youths. A soldier pulled a gun and it turned into a small demonstration against Haiti's military government. A few minutes later, more soldiers and tear gas canisters arrived, while the two-story wooden house housing six families continued to smolder.

Soldiers Discharged, Transferred in Jeremie

FL1201144789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Report by Jeremie correspondent Frankel Valentin]

[Excerpts] At noon today [10 January] eight Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] soldiers stationed at the military district barracks in Jeremie were discharged from the Army. These soldiers had participated in the 17 September movement back when there was a big movement within the Army to get rid of certain men who, according to the soldiers, were doing improper things in the Army.

The eight men who have been discharged from the Army are: (Germain, Jean Ilner), quartermaster sergeant [sergeant fourrier]; (Honore, Jean Lomage), quartermaster sergeant; (Louis, Quenel) sergeant; (Coriolan, Fritz), quartermaster sergeant, FADH; (Edouard, Saint-Jean Vigel), corporal; (Philidor, Luc-Marie), soldier; (Pierre-Louis, Fritzner), soldier; and (Antoine, Jean Wilner), soldier.

We interviewed one of these men, (Honore, Jean Lomage), after the men were discharged from the Army this morning. He will comment on the decision to remove them from the FADH.

[Begin (Honore) recording] Speaking for the enlisted men who have been discharged, all we have to say to Sergeant Major Heubreux is: Thanks a lot, pa!, for choosing Prosper Avril as president for us, a man who has finished working and who is loaded with bucks! [passage omitted] Heubreux

Stressing the major JLP campaign theme that it was the party of management and good housekeeping, Seaga said that the Jamaican economy was not only back on track, but that the 1989-90 fiscal year promised to be "if things go right, the best year Jamaicans has experienced in a very long time." The economic course has been set for the next four or five years and needed sure and delicate management. The PNP policy was to spend money before it was earned and the party could not be trusted with the management of the country. "When it comes to dealing with money you have to see I and I (me)," said Seaga, using the Rastafarian vernacular.

Manley's party, he charged, was hoping to go through the campaign without reference to its past record in government, without speaking of plans for the future and hoping to adopt JLP programmes.

"There is no evidence that the government that failed in the 1970's, the same dibby dibby posse (inept group), the ones that wrecked Jamaica in the 1970's can go back and manage Jamaica now," the JLP leader said. He added: "Who would be foolish enough to take the man who copy the plan if you can get the man who write the plan."

Seaga also sought to make political capital of his close relations with the Reagan administration and suggested that relations between a Manley government and the George Bush administration would be frosty. He said that Manley had often shown his "bitterness to Reagan" to whom Bush was vice president. He pointed out too that Bush was once head of the U.S. Central Inelligence Agency (CIA), which during the 1970's the PNP government had accused of destabilising Jamaica because of its friendship with Cuba.

Manley Gives PNP Reaction

FL1601140089 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] PNP [People's National Party] President Michael Manley last night gave the official reaction of the PNP to the announcement by Prime Minister Edward Seaga of nomination day January 23d and general elections day on February 9th. Mr Manley, among other things, said the announcement was a signal of the coming return to what he called fullest democracy.

[Begin Manley recording] It is not part of the PNP that these elections are taking place during the winter tourist season. However, the PNP, its candidates, members, and its loyal supporters will make every effort to ensure that the casting is peaceful. Consequently, I expect the leadership of the JLP [Jamaica Labor Party] to also take every possible step to exercise the same control and discipline over their members.

While we are on the final stretch, I pray for peace. I pray for all our people. I pray for our beloved country. On Tuesday night at (Sandshop) Square in Montego Bay, I will tell the country where we stand on the policies we will proceed. [end recording]

Three People Shot After 15 Jan JLP Meeting

FL1601163589 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Spanish Town Police has confirmed that three persons were shot last night by supporters of the Jamaica Labor Party [JLP] who were returning from last night's meeting in downtown Kingston. The police say the three wounded people are: (Jerry Bosen) of Manchester Lane, Spanish Town; (Patrick Barret) of Prince Avenue, Spanish Town; and Julia Porta of (Raley) Lane, also in Spanish Town.

The PNP [People's National Party] constituents representative for the area, Vincent Edwards, in commenting on last night's incident, has repeated his call on Construction Minister Brascoe to meet and sign a peace accord immediately. The candidate for the [words indistinct] area (Hansel James) will be signing the political peace accord today at ceremonies set to start at 1100 this morning. Candidates for the [word indistinct] area will sign the accord at the Webster Memorial Church hall while candidates in St James will sign at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Bass Parish.

Trinidad and Tobago

'CLUB 88' Seeking Popular Support

FL1201230589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 11, CANA—The breakaway group from Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party this week kicked off a series of nationwide meetings as it worked towards an April date for setting up a separate political party.

The Caucus of Love, Unity and Brotherhood, with the acronym CLUB 88, began meetings on Tuesday as it sought to rouse popular support for launching a political party. The group, headed by expelled Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday, launched the idea for a separate political party in October 1988, a month after its leaders were booted from the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

Panday and three supporters were dismissed from Cabinet in November 1987 and February 1988 reshuffles after a series of internal wranglings.

IMF Approves Economic Assistance Package

FL1401164789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1732 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 14, CANA—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a 547 million dollar (one TT dollar—23.5 U.S. cents) aid package for Trinidad and Tobago, the government announced.

The 14-month standby facility was approved Friday by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund.

Last November 16, the Trinidad and Tobago Government applied for the funds after outlining plans to improve the ailing economy, placing more emphasis on foreign investment and exports and job-creation.

Antidrug Operations, Arrests, Seizures Cited

Army, Police Actions Noted

PA1401012089 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Jan 89 p 8

[Summary] The Mexican Army has confiscated 3 tons of marijuana in the San Pedro San Luis community in Guerrero State. They also seized weapons and ammunition of various calibers and a pickup truck in that operation.

In keeping with the Army's ongoing campaign against drugs, its personnel destroyed three drug plantations in an area northeast of Mazatlan, Sinaloa.

The deputy attorney general's antinarcotics office has reported that Federal Police agents recently confiscated approximately 1 and ½ tons of marijuana, destroyed 102 poppy plants, and arrested 12 suspected drug traffickers in the states of Sonora, Tamaulipas, Queretaro, and Michoacan.

The Mexican attorney general's office has reported that its agents recently destroyed 102 plantations in the states of Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Sinaloa. An additional 29 poppy and marijuana plantations in Oaxaca and 30,000 square meters under cultivation in Sinaloa were also destroyed.

'Drug Ring' Foiled

PA1401165589 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Jan 89 pp 5-A, 20-A

[Summary] The Federal Judicial Police in Los Mochis, Sinaloa State, engaged in a gun battle with a ring of drug traffickers that ended in the death of one man, Luis Martin Uriarte Gastelum, and the arrest of eight others: Pedro Alvarez Cordero, Rodrigo Alvarez Cordero, Rosario Roman Molina, Gerardo Gomez Castillo, Napoleon Gallardo Montoya, Rene Alberto Angulo Pena, Dora Elena Quinones Alapizza, and Rosa Marquez Angulo.

Police also confiscated 205 kg of pure cocaine, 45 kg of marijuana leaves and seeds, several high-powered weapons, cars, trucks, and three mansions. Although the cocaine came from Colombia, police authorities believe the drug ring also operates in the United States.

Oaxaco Operations Reported

PA1401003989 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Jan 89 p 7, 50

[Summary] The Federal Judicial Police have reported that its agents recently destroyed 20 marijuana plots with a total area under cultivation of 33,000 square meters and 15 poppy plots with 13,000 square meters under cultivation in the Baltazar Lagunas Municipality in Oaxaca State. Police Commander Jose Sanchez Navas noted that the plots had up to eight plants per square meter. He added that this illegal operation had a deep well and modern irrigation equipment.

Sanchez Navas also reported that 10 marijuana plots were destroyed in the San Sebastian Coatlan Municipality. The Police used three helicopters to spray the plots in this operation. He added that the antidrug campaign has intensified in the state over the past few days and that his men cover 2,000 sq km by air and 500 sq km on land.

'Drug Baron' Arrested

PA1301212889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 11 Jan 89 p 4

[Summary] Drug baron Gilberto Ontiveros Lucero, nicknamed "El Grenas," has been arrested by Mexican and U.S. narcotics agents in Ciudad Juarez in connection with an attempt to smuggle 9 tons of marijuana into the United States. Federal prosecutors are building a strong case against Ontiveros based on a long history of drug arrests.

7 Arrested, Marijuana Seized

PA1401013489 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Jan 89 p 4-A

[Summary] As a result of two operations launched by the Federal Judicial Police in Baja California and Nuevo Leon States, seven persons have been arrested and approximately 2 tons of marijuana seized.

Vinicio Santoyo Felia, commander of the 15th Military Zone in Jalisco, reported that the Army carried out several operations in that area in 1988, resulting in the seizure of 95 tons of drugs, 5 planes, a ship, 326 vehicles, 697 long weapons, 554 short weapons, 500 million pesos, and $327,000. The soldiers also destroyed 8,507 marijuana plants and 581 poppy plants and arrested 900 drug traffickers.

'Dangerous' Trafficker Arrested

FL1401141289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0034 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Summary] Mexico City, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—"Agents of the Federal Judicial Police have detained the dangerous drug trafficker Raul Kelly Osuna, who had his center of operations in the northern part of the country in Hermosillo, Sonora."

An investigation has revealed that Osuna acquired the drugs in Sinaloa and distributed them in Tijuana, where they were illegally brought into the United States. The arrest was made from information obtained after the arrest of Ruben Munoz Martinez and Jesus Gonzalez Murillo, who were carrying 500 kg of marijuana. Munoz and Gonzalez told authorities that they picked up the drugs, which belong to Osuna, from a clandestine runway located in the Guadalupe Valley in Baja California.

The police also confiscated several weapons from Osuna, including two 9-mm pistols, two AK-47 rifles, and an AR-15 rifle.

Border City Operations Noted

PA1401205989 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Summary] The Federal Judicial Police have seized more than 1,600 kg of marijuana in the border cities of Nogales and Hermosillo, Sonora State. The police commander in Nogales reported that 1,328 kg of marijuana and 55.5 kg of marijuna seeds were seized in three operations. He also reported the arrest of Gerardo Checo Peralta, Felipe Cortes Lopez, Juan Manuel Rodriguez, Jesus Torres Echeverria, and Eugenio (?Pimbres) Moreno.

In Hermosillo, the police reported the arrest of an individual who tried to smuggle 260 kg of marijuana into Santa Ana.

5 Tons of Marijuana Confiscated

PA1601123389 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Summary] "The Federal Judicial Police seized 5 tons of marijuana in various operations carried out in Oaxaca, Sonora, Michoacan, and Guerrero States early today." This is the largest seizure by the Attorney General's Office so far this year.

Marijuana Seizures Noted

PA1701230289 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Summary] The Federal Judicial Police [PJF] in Jalisco dealt another blow to drug trafficking this morning. They seized 1.5 tons of marijuana near Guadalajara in a truck traveling from Michoacan to Mexico's northern border. Jalisco PJF Commander Ramon Uriarte Solis explained that the operation was carried out as a result of information obtained in Tijuana, where a truck with approximately 2 tons of marijuana was also seized.

Arrests at Border Cited

FL1701210589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Summary] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Members of the Federal Highway Police, PFC, confiscated 189 kg of marijuana in the northern state of Chihuahua when four alleged drug traffickers attempted to introduce the drug into the United States. The marijuana was hidden in the vehicle they were driving. The names of the drug traffickers are Andres Nino, Luz Maria Juarez, Gualterio Treviso Dominguez, and Angel Espinosa. The detainees, the marijuana, and the vehicles were taken to the Public Ministry in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

6.5 Tons of Marijuana Burned

FL1801015689 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2332 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Morelia, Mexico, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—A little more than 6.5 tons of marijuana were burned today in this western town. Francisco Rivera Cambas, circuit delegate of the Mexican Attorney General's Office, reported that the incineration was witnessed by state, military, and health officials, as well as authorities from the Attorney General's office.

Of this amount, said Rivera Cambas, more than 5 tons were confiscated by members of the Federal Judicial Police in different operations conducted during the first 15 days of this month. The public health sector confiscated the other 1.5 tons.

The official also reported that some drugs confiscated in the area were burned at the Lazaro Cardenas and Uruapan Plazas. He also said that the permanent fight against drug trafficking has been increased and this has allowed for the confiscation of more shipments of drugs each day, as well as the detention of alleged drug traffickers.

Belize

Diplomatic Relations Established With Spain

FL1401021289 Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] A simultaneous announcement was made today in Belmopan and Madrid stating that the governments of Belize and Spain have agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations. The Belize Foreign Ministry announcement says, quote, the governments of Belize and Spain, wishing to promote the spirit of mutual understanding and development of friendship and cooperation ties between their respective countries and peoples, have agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level effective 13 January 1989. The two governments have expressed their confidence that this agreement will be mutually beneficial in the development of trade, economy, culture, and other ties between the two nations, in the interest of strengthening peace and international cooperation and promoting the principles of international law in relations between states, end of quote.

Costa Rica

Arias To 'Confront' Castro at Perez Inauguration

FL1301115189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will confront Cuban leader Fidel Castro next month in Venezuela.

Mr Arias had said that Mr Castro should stop aiding the guerrillas in El Salvador and assisting the Sandinists in Nicaragua if the Central American peace plan is to succeed.

Both men are to attend the February 2d presidential inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Andres Perez.

Mr Arias said he is disturbed by the speeches which Mr Castro made during the recent 30th anniversary celebration of the Cuban Revolution in which Mr Castro reaffirmed his solidarity with what he called Marxist revolutionaries.

Caracas Meeting Confirmed

PA1701191789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1844 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpt] San Jose, 17 Jan (AFP)—Official sources in San Jose today confirmed that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Cuban Chief of State Fidel Castro will meet in Caracas on 2 February to analyze the strife-torn Central American situation.

The two leaders will travel to Caracas on that date to attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, and they will use the occasion to exchange opinions on the regional conflict.

Costa Rican Information Minister Guido Fernandez said Luis Ojalbo, Castro's envoy and secretary for Central America of the Communist Party of Cuba [name and title as received], visited San Jose last week to agree on the meeting. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Duarte Cancels Trip to Washington for Treatment

PA1701231489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2217 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte said today he will not be traveling to Washington to continue receiving chemotherapy treatments and noted that for the past 2 days he has been receiving medical care in San Salvador similar to what he had been receiving in the United States.

The 62-year-old Salvadoran president, who has been noticeably recovering from his illness as well as from the effects of chemotherapy treatments, today at noon inspected ongoing construction of a new hospital and stated: "I feel fine. Two days ago I began a new chemotherapy treatment here in the country." He noted: "I will not be going to the United States." He made this statement at the conclusion of his inspection of the Rosales Hospital building, the construction of which is being financed by the French Government. [passage omitted]

Jose Luis Saca, Duarte's personal physician, said today that the chief of state is in "excellent" health and that the intensity of most of his chemotherapy treatments lately has been reduced 60 percent and has been administered in El Salvador. [passage omitted]

Venezuela's Perez Extends Invitation to Ungo

PA1801011589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received very significant information—underlined in red—regarding Guillermo Manuel Ungo's visit to Venezuela as a guest of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

The report states that Perez is interested in El Salvador and has thus asked Ungo, a member of the Democratic Convergence and president of the FDR, to advise him regarding the situation in this country.

Reports such as these show the degree to which the FMLN and FDR have gained international recognition as emergent powers in El Salvador.

Clandestine Radio on 8-14 Jan FMLN Actions

PA1801015489 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2200 GMT on 15 January carries 14 minutes of battle reports on FMLN military actions during the period 8-14 January 1989.

According to the first report, 227 casualties were inflicted on the "dictatorship's troops" during the 8-14 January period, including "a 2d lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 2

The government has been confronted by all segments of society, even those that traditionally support the administration. We thus witnessed a confrontation between the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise (COHEP) and President Azcona. We also witnessed an amazing strike staged by the bureaucrats of the ANDEPH [National Association of Honduran Public Employees], the trade unions, and the peasants. There has even been insubordination on the part of the Armed Foces toward the commander in chief, the president of the Republic, on the signing of an agreement between Honduras and El Salvador to establish what both countries refer to as the "dry canal."

This confrontation between the military and President Azcona was apparently prompted by the fact that the Armed Forces did not get a piece of the pie from the services provided by the National Port Enterprise, in which a payment in dollars would be made for every container entering or leaving Honduras. The project would thus hardly pay for itself.

Furthermore, the series of murders of those associated with protecting human rights—such as human rights leaders Miguel Angel Pavon and Moises Landaverde, and Jose Isaias Vilorio, a police officer who was to serve as a witness at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights—traumatized Honduran society.

The fire in the U.S. Embassy annex in Tegucigalpa, set by mobs angered over [accused drug trafficker] Ramon Matta's unconstitutional release to U.S. judicial authorities—together with the leniency exhibited by police authorities in this situation—is yet another one of this year's milestones.

Very little has been positive during the last 365 days. The only thing that could be mentioned as positive would be the National and Liberal Parties' internal elections of their rank and file, in view of the upcoming general elections next year. It would have been better, however, to use all the energy that was expended in this excessive 3-year political campaign to solve the nation's problems.

We would like to be able to say, as most people do, that we can start with a clean slate now that the year has ended and that things will therefore improve in 1989. Unfortunately, reality is otherwise. We as Hondurans should prepare for a further deterioration of our economy and for the social imbalances that such a deterioration will entail. We will have to work even harder and demand more efficiency from the state administration.

Trusting that this will be the case, we wish the readers of TIEMPO and the people of Honduras a successful 1989.

Paper Charged With 'Libel'

PA1601043889 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Yesterday morning, Manuel Gamero, director of the newspaper TIEMPO, was sued in the First Criminal Court for an alleged "libel" against the Honduran Armed Forces.

Attorney General Ruben Dario Zepeda Gutierrez presented the accusation against Gamera at 0800 yesterday.

A court official said that Zepeda Gutierrez delivered two editorials, one of them from the 31 December issue, as proof.

According to the allegation, Gamero committed the libel in a 31 December editorial that said "there has even been insubordination on the part of the Armed Forces toward the commander in chief, the president of the Republic, on the signing of an agreement between Honduras and El Salvador to establish what both countries refer to as the 'dry canal'."

It was also noted that there was a libel when the director of TIEMPO stated that "apparently, this confrontation between the military and President Azcona was prompted by the fact that the Armed Forces did not get a piece of the pie from the sale of the services of the National Port Enterprise."

Lawyer Saul Suazo Lara, who is in charge of the First Criminal Court, said that he does not know if the suit will be instituted against Gamero as he has not yet analyzed the editorials presented by the attorney general.

He said the suit will follow the usual legal procedure, which is why he does not know if Gamero will be summoned to face the libel suit.

For his part, Daniel Rivera, the court secretary, said that if the accusation stands, Gamero will be summoned to answer charges and if there are grounds, an arrest warrant will be issued.

Claiming that he was not authorized to give any information, Rivera said that the fine for libel is 2,160 lempiras, but whether or not the court would proceed has not yet been determined.

Article 160 of the Penal Code establishes that "one commits slander or libel, punishable by 6 months to 3 years in jail, when the slander or libel are expressed or written in a way that arouses the people's hatred or scorn against the offended party."

Newspaper Reacts to Charges

PA1601120489 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Another Attack on Freedom of Expression"]

[Text] It is not the first time—and it will not be the last—that TIEMPO, the newspaper of Honduras, is the object of the Honduran Armed Forces' repression.

On 13 March 1978, the Honduran Armed Forces issued official Communique No 035 informing Honduran citizens that "there is proof of the biased campaign that TIEMPO, which is edited in San Pedro Sula, has begun against the Armed Forces."

On that occasion we responded with, among other things, the following statement: "The only reason that TIEMPO editors had for saying what they say now and what they said at a time when TIEMPO was the only paper defending the Honduran Armed Forces from a systematic and hostile press campaign, is the struggle for a homeland suitable for all Hondurans."

And we added: "We now wonder, as the rest of the Honduran people are wondering, why has TIEMPO been made the target of this attack against freedom of expression? What are the reasons for this attack?"

On 5 July 1978, TIEMPO Executive Director Manuel Gamero was arrested and imprisoned by order of a judge who was following a superior military order. That order was in fact a reprisal for the release of the results of an investigation about the famous Ferrari spouses murder. Gamero was released on bail 5 days after his arrest, because the charges were unfounded and also thanks to local and foreign protests and the firm actions of the Honduran Supreme Court of Justice.

Ten years later, on 8 April 1988, when the Executive Branch absurdly declared a state of emergency because of a fire in a building attached to the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, it tried to close down TIEMPO at the instigation of the high military command. The paper was not closed thanks to the resolve of its editors in facing that attack on freedom of expression.

Yesterday TIEMPO was again attacked by the Honduran Armed Forces, surely to intimidate the media and journalists and prevent them from thoroughly looking into national problems, particularly those related to the military.

Although we have not yet been notified by the court, it is a fact that the attorney general—on orders from the Armed Forces high command—has lodged a charge against TIEMPO's director, Manuel Gamero, for the crime of slander of the Armed Forces.

We believe the reasons given by the accusers are based on our editorial dated 31 December 1988, which said that the Armed Forces' opposition to the agreement signed between Honduras and El Salvador—on orders from the executive branch—for the operation of the so-called "dry canal," resulted in insubordination because the Armed Forces, who by law are apolitical, obedient, and nondeliberative, do not have the authority to deal with such affairs or to question the decisions of their superior, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who is the country's president.

Therefore, we are in a situation that is a typical contradiction of logic. The media, fulfilling its role as balancer and defender of the law, reacts to an act by an authority that is clearly illegal and criticizes it. The media does not do this to antagonize or slander, but to find a solution to an act that is detrimental to society by fulfilling its obligation. This is labeled slander.

We are waiting to hear the judge's decision in this case, which undoubtedly will be of national and international interest because it concerns the freedom of expression.

As always, we are prepared to do our duty. Those blinded by arrogance bring discredit on themselves by assuming attitudes contrary to social harmony and coexistence based on deliberation and participation to determine the life or our country.

We repeat our unchanging position: TIEMPO is an open forum, open to every responsible opinion. As long as there is freedom, we will make use of it. But when it is gone, as has so often occurred in Honduras, or we are closed up, or we stop publishing. [as published]. TIEMPO sells for just 40 cents.

Nicaragua

BARRICADA Cites PRAVDA on Ortega

PA1401194989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Jan 89 p 4

[Article by P. Bogolomov of PRAVDA: "Daniel Ortega According to PRAVDA—A President Who Is No Different Than His People"]

[Text] Some of the proposals that Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution, Nicaraguan president, and FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate coordinator, officially made in the past few days include extending the unilateral cessation of the Sandinist People's Army offensive operations against the contras until 31 January, reiterating Nicaragua's willingness to talk with Honduras, and calling for a reduction of the foreign military presence in Central America.

One of Ortega's outstanding qualities is that he is practically no different from the people, whether he is attending a peasants meeting or a commemoration of some kind or seeing off military battalions headed for the conflict areas in Nicaragua's north.

His voice is a little low and subdued, yet he must speak on an "ardent continent," where possessing the art of public speaking is highly valued. He walks casually and does not have the slightest trace of the seriousness that marks a "great leader."

As a politician, Ortega is strong, primarily because he is receptive to the people and takes into consideration his opponents' viewpoints. Ortega not only drafts, but develops the FSLN's overall policy.

He occupies an intermediate position between the older and younger FSLN members. This is very important. Warning his comrades of the risk of assuming extremist positions, he organized the National Liberation Party, a very special group both in composition and tactics. By

radio operators, a 2d sergeant, 2 corporals, and a machinegunner." The report continues: "If we add the 77 casualties inflicted last week, we have a total of 304 Army casualties in the 1st 15 days of 1989."

The radio reports the following Army materiel destroyed in FMLN attacks: "two helicopters—one destroyed in Chalatenango and the other in San Vicente on 11 January; three military aircraft destroyed in successful ambushes; and a tank destroyed near (San Milpo Centro)." The radio adds: "Following a regional maneuver in Chalatenango, two helicopters were shot down; 25 casualties were inflicted during a successful ambush on the Pan-American Highway between San Martin and Cojutepeque; 15 casualties were inflicted during an ambush in Las Brisas neighborhood, Metapan; and 15 more casualties were inflicted on the Army in (Oloaiquin), Gotera, also during an ambush."

The radio claims that "the guerrillas inflicted 21 casualties on Cobra Battalion troops from the 4th Infantry Brigade" during an FMLN attack in Chalatenango Department on 12 January.

According to the radio, of the 227 total casualties inflicted "this week," 100 resulted from ambushes, 35 were caused by mines, and 32 were inflicted in the course of regular military maneuvers." [figures as heard]

Another report states that FMLN guerrillas sabotaged "41 power poles, 4 towers, and 5 transformers."

Reviewing the FMLN's political-military actions during the 8-14 January period, the radio claims that the FMLN "expelled seven mayors and four judges in different parts of the country. So far, 40 local officials have resigned, thereby admitting that the FMLN is gaining strength in El Salvador."

15-16 Jan Attacks Reported

PA1801033489 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1200 GMT on 17 January transmits 15 minutes of military reports on FMLN guerrilla actions.

The first report is on a regional military maneuver called "Death to the Christian Democratic Genocidal Regime, All the People To Prepare the Insurrection for a Democratic and Popular Government." The report from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front says that on 15 January, FMLN guerrillas attacked the city of Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department. The report adds that "at least three artillery shells hit the installations of the Armed Forces Military Engineers Detachment." In addition, the report says that "FMLN guerrillas occupied four neighborhoods in Zacatecoluca, while other units attacked the military garrison and destroyed three armored vehicles with RPG-7 rockets." The report continues: "As part of the same maneuver, FMLN units attacked the military garrison in San Sebastian." According to the report, the FMLN inflicted "at least 65 casualties on the Army in clashes from 0030 to 0400" on 15 January.

The radio adds that at 1750 on 15 January, "FMLN guerrilla units successfully ambushed a military vehicle transporting troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade on the road from Santo Domingo to San Sebastian, partially destroying the vehicle and inflicting 15 casualties on the enemy."

Another report says that at 0200 on 16 January, FMLN guerrillas attacked the National Guard garrison in San Sebastian, adding that the "enemy sustained eight casualties as a result of this attack, which lasted 1 hour."

16-17 Jan Guerrilla Activity

PA1801031189 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 1200 GMT on 17 January broadcasts 15 minutes of reports on FMLN guerrilla actions for the period 16-17 January.

In an initial report, it says that "at 0830 on 16 January, Pedro Pablo Castillo urban commandos successfully ambushed a truck carrying criminal National Guard forces from Cojutepeque to San Salvador." The report adds that two powerful mines were detonated in the path of the National Guard troops "inflicting 22 casualties. The truck was completely destroyed."

Another report says that "early today," FMLN forces attacked Army positions in Tejutla, Dulce Nombre de Maria, San Ignacio, Nueva Concepcion, and El Refugio. The report adds that the Azmitia Battalion facilities in El Refugio were "engulfed in fire" and that, "according to preliminary reports, there were over 25 Army casualties."

In a correspondent report from Chalatenango Department, the radio says that "Atlacatl Battalion forces were attacked in the Zapotal and Ojos de Agua areas" and that "an attack was carried out with the people's artillery on positions held by Military Detachment No 1" "on the outskirts of the departmental capital."

The radio says that in FMLN attacks "early today" in Tejutla and other towns, five casualties were inflicted on 4th Brigade troops in San Ignacio and that the FMLN forces also seized the strategic position of La Cruz Hill. The radio adds: "We confirm 21 casualties thus far in Tejutla and the fighting continues."

Popular Union Nominates Presidential Candidates

PA1701131589 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 Jan 89 p 7

[Text] Former Deputies Hugo Barrera and Dr Maria Julia Castillo are the presidential candidates for the coalition of three parties in the Popular Union (UP).

Political leader Eliseo Rovira Mixco told DIARIO LATINO that last night there was a meeting of the leadership of the Salvadoran Popular Party, the Liberation Party [PL], and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA).

It was agreed for the time being to nominate Hugo Barrera and Dr Maria Julio Castillo as the candidates for that alliance, but the proclamation will be officially announced during a national convention.

Barrera will run for president, while Dr Castillo will be a candidate for vice president.

Rumors circulated this week that she would be the running mate for Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes of the Authentic Christian Movement (MAC), but since there has not been any agreement, this has been ruled out.

Dr Castillo began her political career in the ranks of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] and was later a deputy of that party at the time some PCN leaders created PAISA. She also served as president of the constituent assembly.

She has also been deputy minister of public health and social services.

Hugo Barrera had belonged at one time to the Nationalist Republican Alliance, but he left the party over disagreements with some leaders and founded the PL.

Guatemala

Government Reaffirms Friendship With Taiwan

OW1701170489 Taipei CNA in English 1540 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, Jan 16 (CNA)—Vice President Roberto Carpio of the Republic of Guatemala Monday reaffirmed the friendly relations between his country and the Republic of China [ROC].

The vice president said that his government is neither willing, nor has plans, to increase its economic and trade ties with Communist China.

Carpio made his remarks after meeting in his office with Premier Yu Kuo-hua of the Republic of China. Premier Yu, head of a high-ranking ROC delegation, was in Guatemala for a three-day visit.

Vice President Carpio said that Yu's visit will further cement already cordial ROC-Guatemala ties.

He told the Chinese reporters accompanying the ROC delegation on the visit that the ROC Government has promised to provide $5 million to Guatemala to help develop small and medium enterprises which are expected to create some 8,000 new jobs.

In an exclusive interview with CNA, Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon, speaker of Guatemalan Congress, also pledged to do his best to help strengthen friendly relations between Guatemala and the ROC.

"Guatemala is opposed to any individual or group taking political power by force, no matter whether they are rightists or leftists, and will thus not seek to establish ties with the Chinese communists. Contacts with communist countries will only hurt Guatemala's democratic system," the Guatemalan congressional leader said.

Premier Yu and his entourage left Guatemala Tuesday morning for home via Los Angeles after concluding a 13-day official tour which also took him to the Bahamas and Dominican Republic. They are scheduled to arrive in Taipei Wednesday.

During his stay in the Bahamas, Yu signed a communique with Bahamian Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling to formally establish diplomatic relations between the ROC and the Bahamas.

Honduras

TIEMPO Editorial Criticizes Government

PA1801043989 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Dec 88 p 6

[Editorial: "A Bad Year Ends Without A Clean Slate"]

[Text] The year 1988 ends today. It has been a bad year for the Honduran people. They have experienced increases in poverty, criminal and institutionalized violence, and unemployment. They have also seen the economic crisis systematically intensify.

The last 12 months have been characterized by constant social upheaval and scandal. During this time, the government has been incapable of providing even a smidgen of hope. On the contrary, it has sown the seed of disappointment in the Honduran people and has made them pessimistic about the future.

This year featured some of the greatest moments in corruption. For example, arrangements between CONADI [National Investment Corporation] and a family in debt resulted in CONADI practically giving away 25 million lempiras to this family as a gift.

The negotiations between the Honduran and U.S. Governments to establish an unbelievable protocol to the 1954 bilateral military agreement, the support for the "contras"—orchestrated by the United States—and the renewal of the Ahuas Tara joint military maneuvers next year have all contributed to weakening Honduras' nationalism and sovereignty.

Hondurans have suffered the shame of receiving a condemnation from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, the International Court of Justice recently ruled against Honduras in Nicaragua's claim against Honduras for human rights violations.

the way, one of the things that angers U.S. governing circles most is that the Nicaraguan leadership has remained united for so long. The subversive centers that wage the "undeclared war" against the Sandinist revolution would pay well for a repetition in Managua of the Grenada dissensions and an aggravation of disagreements within the FSLN. Fortunately, nobody has presented Nicaragua's enemies with this gift so far.

A great many people on the Potomac are furious over Ortega's "enigmatic magnetism" and the unyielding fortitude of his political and human position. Is this perhaps why many people everywhere are bent on discrediting him and his family? These people, for example, found great pleasure in commenting on the high price of the eyeglasses he bought in New York. At other times, these people have presented false "overwhelming" evidence that Ortega's government decisions, and even his hobbies, such as baseball, which he has been following for a long time, are "dictated by Havana." Ortega refuted this by saying: "You know, baseball is the only positive inheritance that the North American occupants of our territory left for Nicaraguans early in the century."

The Man of La Libertad

Those who fabricate all kinds of rumors swoop down on Rosario Murillo, Ortega's wife and leader of the Nicaraguan Association of Culture Workers. It has been said she arrived at a children's home wearing "a too expensive dress." How could it have been otherwise, considering that she had received several foreign women's delegations ½ hour before? As a rule, her enemies never say that she is a courageous and independent poetess who accused the Somozist dictatorship in her poems even at the risk of her life. In addition, she is the mother of eight excellent children.

I think Ortega's early days are symbolic. He was born at La Libertad, "svoboda" in Russian. This was in 1945, when the news of the defeat of Hitler's Reich shook the thrones of the Central American gorillas and forced the local dictators to abandon their hopes of turning the Western world into a fascist one.

Four and a half decades have passed since then. During all this time, the young man from La Libertad, who is now an internationally recognized figure, has followed the path of aspirations, restlessness, victories, and defeats that he chose. This is the way to a new Nicaragua.

Ortega Talks to Diplomats on U.S. Administration

PA1701160489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1208 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega, in a meeting held with diplomats accredited in Nicaragua, made a new call to President-elect George Bush to evaluate the Reagan administration's 8 years of experience. Our goal continues to be the achievement of peace and the search for ways to coexist with the U.S. Government, said Ortega, who expressed his trust in the new U.S. Government. Ortega noted that with the help of governments and international organizations interested in Central American peace, the groundwork for a firm and lasting peace based on the Esquipulas agreements could be achieved.

President Ortega condemned the use of force and expressed his support for a peaceful solution. In addition, he hoped the ties with all countries that hold bilateral relations with Nicaragua will be strengthened in 1989.

Ortega Attends Ceremony at Cuban Embassy

FL1401154089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, the National Directorate, and most of the government's cabinet [as heard] attended a reception at the Cuban Embassy in Nicaragua. The reception was held in honor of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. Representatives from [words indistinct] in Managua, state officials, and other personalities also attended the reception given by Cuban Ambassador Norberto Hernandez Curbelo.

The representatives of the various internationalist cooperation missions in Nicaragua also celebrated the 3 decades of the Cuban Revolution.

First Cuban Reconstruction Workers Arrive

FL1201153489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The first 56 minibrigade workers from Havana City who will participate in the reconstruction of the devastated city of Bluefields, Nicaragua have already arrived in the Central American country.

The contingent will be composed of 300 minibrigade workers who will be responsible for building social projects and 1,000 homes in 2 years.

Contra Leaders Seeking Support in El Salvador

PA1701170789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist contra leaders have started a campaign to seek support in El Salvador. The contra leaders accused the Nicaraguan Government of training and supplying false identification documents to the Salvadoran rebels. The contras also denied that they are selling their weapons to the Salvadoran rebels.

Counterrevolutionary leaders Aristides Sanchez and former Somozist commander Enrique Bermudez began a visit to San Salvador a few days ago. They participated in a businessmen's seminar sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for El Salvador.

A few days later, the rebel leaders appeared on local television commenting on reports that Salvadoran Air Force Commander Juan Rafael Bustillo helps in the transfer of weapons to the contra movement through the Ilopango Military Airport on the outskirts of San Salvador. They said those reports are an invention of the propaganda apparatus of international Marxism.

The contra leaders also denied that the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] began selling its weapons to the Salvadoran rebels when the RN felt abandoned by the United States.

Former Somozist Bermudez said: We use Soviet weapons, and the FMLN uses M-16's and other U.S.-made military equipment.

Regarding the weakening of the RN and its internal division, the contra leaders said the RN is a group of forces that share one common goal—the overthrow of the Sandinist government—but those forces cannot share one single position, as the Marxists do.

Bermudez said some contra commanders have been deceived by the Sandinists, but the RN troops have a high morale. He said the RN has had only small problems.

The contras did not comment on the financial aid that they receive from Salvadoran economic groups and other sectors. The contras said: Terrorism is too strong, but it is logical that all groups that feel threatened by state totalitarianism and communism help us.

Various political circles have criticized the contra presence in El Salvador, because it is against the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement, which recommends the area governments not to support groups that try to destabilize the area's constitutionally elected governments.

Editorial Views Opposition March, Ortega Remarks

PA1701235489 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Station editorial]

[Text] The people, shielded by their union and political banners, marched from San Miguel church to the general cemetery despite the campaign of insults, slander, and discredit against the march, the refusal of movement permits in various departments, and the scarcity of transportation throughout the country, including Managua. It was a clear demonstration by those who favor peace, freedom, and democracy.

The civic opposition scored a victory when it placed more than 30,000 enthusiastic demonstrators in the capital's sunny streets. The people shouted slogans demanding that the Sandinist government offer authentic political pluralism, a mixed economy, peace, and freedom. All ideologies merged and were represented at the biggest demonstration of patriotism, respect, and repudiation of violence, lack of understanding, and hatred. The figure of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, murdered by the Somozist dictatorship, was at the center of the demonstration. This hero who fought for freedom and was the greatest defender of Nicaraguan rights was present during the entire demonstation. Thousands of people sang the national anthem and were reminded by it that peace is a country's best asset, and that no ideology is worth the life of one Nicaraguan child.

In reply, and against the clear wishes of the people, President Ortega lashed out against the opposition and accused it of receiving money from the United States and of not accepting revolutionary ideals. The president went even further and clearly threatened the civic opposition and its struggle by saying: They are not aware that we have reserves and other options, and if we have not resorted to them it is because the workers are giving them one last chance. Ortega then added: The opposition does not want to acknowledge that if we decide to modify our plans, they will have no other choice but to go to Miami to search for democracy and try to get rich.

President Ortega's unfortunate statements at the FSLN basic forces meeting clearly shows that the Sandinist government has no intention of complying with the Esquipulas II agreement. In addition, the FSLN's historic plan is still alive despite the fact that 10 years have shown it to be a failure and that chaos will soon follow if it continues.

We cannot understand the official media's contradictory language as expressed in daily reports. Government leaders are apparently disturbed because of the postponement of the Central American presidents' summit that was to be held in El Salvador on 15 and 16 January. However, they threaten the opposition because it does not want to accept a fake political pluralism. It is a political pluralism that exists only as words, because the government has placed all sorts of obstacles so pluralism cannot express itself openly and political parties do not have the freedom of action that the government party has. A political party is formed and guided by ideals and principles, and it prepares government programs with the goal of implementing them once the party reaches power. In Nicaragua it is different. Here, all citizens must accept the government party's impositions, principles, and plans, even if they do not agree with it or if the plans do not further the people's happiness. Yesterday, in the biggest demonstration of unity in the past 10 years, political parties, unions, and private enterprise presented their views on how common welfare is best attained. The unity observed yesterday shows that people are thirsty for justice, peace, freedom, and democracy. We have to attain these so all of us, as one, may work to reconstruct the fatherland. Thank you.

Government Cancels Suspension of Newscast

PA1801014789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0036 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Managua, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry today canceled the suspension of an opposition Radio Corporacion newscast that had been indefinitely suspended yesterday, a Radio Corporacion editor told ACAN-EFE.

"We are pleased by the government's decision, because the suspension of the newscast was unfair from every legal standpoint," Adolfo Pastran, editor of the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast stated.

Pastran said the government violated the law because it suspended the newscast indefinitely, although it had not committed any previous violations.

The Interior Ministry Media General Directorate suspended the cast for airing a report last Friday announcing the dismissal of 5,000 Interior Ministry workers.

Pastrana said it is true that the newcast had aired such a report, but it was merely echoing a report aired by the "leading" state radio station's "13 Hours" newscast.

"The government should have penalized '13 Hours' and not 'Five O'Clock Sharp,' because it was the one that aired the report," Pastrana stated.

Panama

'Explosive Device' Found at U.S. Consulate

PA1701190789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1845 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Jan (DPA)—An alleged explosive device was found today at the U.S. Consulate building in this capital, U.S. Embassy spokesmen told DPA.

The explosive package was found at 0900 (local time) attached to the outside of the U.S. Consulate building.

Members of the bomb detection unit of the U.S. Southern Command, based in the Panama Canal area, came to the Consulate and ordered the evacuation of the personnel in the building.

According to U.S. Embassy spokesmen, the device is currently being examined by the explosives technicians of the Southern Command, and a detailed report is expected within the next few hours.

FDP Reaction to Bomb

PA1701215089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2206 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Jan (DPA)—The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have given no importance to reports issued today by the U.S. Embassy in Panama City about a bomb that was allegedly placed in U.S. consular offices. A high-ranking Panamanian state security officer told DPA: "We cannot believe anyone could get close to a maximum security area in that diplomatic installation and plant a bomb, considering all the sophisticated equipment the Americans have to wage low-intensity warfare against Panama."

According to the military officer, national security networks [not further identified] are maintaining a close watch in key areas of the country. He added: "That report, which was created by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis' people, is nothing but part of his plan to destabilize the country as the Reagan administration draws to a close."

The officer noted: "We receive anonymous calls daily about bombs allegedly placed in public buildings in Panama, and Panamanian authorities do not cause a stir over them."

Editorial Criticizes Reagan, Juan B. Sosa

PA1401232689 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "In View of the Case of the Technical Commission of the Canal"]

[Text] There is only 1 week to go before Ronald Reagan ends his term in office. During his term Reagan has tarnished, to an extreme degree, the presidential office that has been enhanced over the years by many illustrious citizens of that same nation that Reagan is determined to push into an abyss with his absurd way of thinking and doing things. Reagan is a decrepit and arrogant man who, close to receiving the last rites himself, wants to take the rest of mankind with him.

Reagan's phobia against the world in general, and against our country in particular, is such that we can just imagine him choking, with his face twisted in anger, foaming at the mouth, scratching the walls, and trying to climb the Capitol dome from where he would fire his imaginary death rays against everything and everyone.

He has gone so far, got in so deep, and stooped so low that it would not take much for him to get lost from the White House and show up in the Antipodes, where he is also trying to cause problems. There is no corner of the world that has escaped the fury of his whip.

His most recent attack against our country (not the last, considering the relapses of his anti-Panama disease) was the order he gave the dull, malleable, and insignificant non-entity, namely Juan B. Sosa, to attend the Panama Canal Commission's Technical Meeting [held in Houston, Texas, 11-12 January]. Reagan, a shrewd manipulator of Judas-like puppets, has provided the posture, the voice, and the money of the so-called "ambassador." Sosa now only represents Reagan because he lost our country's representation long ago because of his treachery and, if for no other reason, for abandoning his post.

The presence of this clay-made guest—because he is not even good enough to be made out of stone—at the meeting is a sign of Reagan's typical disregard for everything pertaining to the rest of the human race. The following terms—commitments, signed agreements, multinational accords, human rights, national self-determination, the people—have all lost their meaning for Reagan. The moment they lost their meaning in Reagan's head, he put his Iran/Contra plan into action, downed planes in the Middle East, backed the UK takeover of the Malvinas, and kept up the endless bloodshed in Nicaragua with his support of the "contras," and in El Salvador, by giving carte blanche to Jose Napoleon Duarte. To round off his series of mistakes with a final flourish of misery and destruction, he tried to destroy Panama economically, politically, internationally, and threatened it with armed invasion.

Mister [preceding word in English] John B. Sosa can be the perfect ambassador for all this and can play his role with skill. However, Sosa's real image in regard to

Panama is being drawn, in an accurate composite sketch, by Panama's efficient and real envoy to the OAS, Aquilino Boyd. Boyd's words before this international organization will reduce Sosa's image to ashes. Reagan's departure on 20 January, which the majority of the human race deems too distant, will be more than enough to give Sosa the coup de grace he deserves.

Further Criticism of Reagan

PA1501150289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Disrespectful Attitudes"]

[Text] The attitude assumed by the delegation of the empire and its Reaganite government through illegally admitting the presence of a pseudodiplomatic representative of a pseudoinvisible president at the regular meeting of the joint Panama Canal Commission [PCC] logically resulted in—and they knew this well—the withdrawal of the Panamanian delegate. It does not behoove the United States to question the credentials, cleanly granted by the Panamanian state and its government, of our foreign diplomats accredited abroad. That is not the task of a foreign nation. The task of designating our representatives to international organizations is an exclusive prerogative of the government and state that is not subject to questioning by any other country. Therefore, the constitutional government of Panama is fully entitled to appoint its delegates and foreign employees in the diplomatic world, and the other party has only one choice: to recognize or not to recognize them, but it cannot, per se, replace our nation's representatives, admitting the presence of someone who holds no post, who does not represent any government, and who does not even receive pay abroad, to such a serious meeting provided for by the existing treaties.

This situation is becoming recurrent. This is the third time our delegation had protested the presence of a ghost ambassador, of whom we could ask: "Ambassador of what?" paraphrasing the lapidary phrase of General Omar Torrijos Herrera when he referred to a foreign government imposed in the Canal Zone.

It is a disrespectful attitude on the part of the U.S. delegation, which is part of this joint commission, to have sent an invitation to an individual who has no representation, command, or legal jurisdiction to represent Panama. By doing so, the Yankees are torpedoing the meetings and are meeting in isolation. Yet there are those who claim it is extremist to think of nationalism.

FUMCA Plans Rally Outside U.S. Embassy

PA1701041889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2307 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Women's Single Front Against Aggression [FUMCA] will hold a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy on Thursday [19 January] from 1800-2200. FUMCA invites men, women, children, senior citizens, and peace-loving people to take part in this action.

FUMCA's note stressed that these protests seek to show the new U.S. Government that we shall be standing, never kneeling, and will not take a single step backward in our struggle for total sovereignty and independence.

Legislator Pessimistic Regarding U.S. Relations

PA1401011389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2332 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 12 Jan (DPA)—Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, director of the oldest Panamanian newspaper, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, who is being mentioned as a possible candidate on a progovernment ticket in the upcoming elections, said today that he was pessimistic regarding a possible solution to differences between the United States and Panama once President-elect George Bush is inaugurated on 20 January.

Altamirano Duque, the only parliamentarian elected in the 1984 elections with the support of progovernment and opposition parties, believes that Bush lacks Congressional support in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate for a normalization of relations with Panama.

"Bush will not handle U.S. foreign policy. That policy is handled by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is currently in charge of problems in Panama," the politician added.

He dismissed speculation that the inclusion of the Panamanian Communist Party in the progovernment National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, could erode popular support for that alliance in the 7 May elections.

"Leftist groups must be taken into consideration and allowed to participate," Altamirano Duque said.

Solis Palma Speaks at Air Force Day Ceremony

PA1701195189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Speech by Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma at an Air Force (FAP) ceremony in celebration of Air Force Day held at Air Force headquarters in Tocumen on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] For over 19 months, Panama has been subjected to the most shameless and outrageous disinformation. We have been portrayed as a militarized country. Panama has been portrayed as a country where there is no democracy and where human rights are not respected.

After one of the most powerful countries in the world used all its ability and applied its resources and techniques to disinform the world, the world responded by saying one of the most slandered persons in the world was one of the five most important men in 1988. [applause]

That response is not simply a gift to or a way to honor a man who courageously confronted the United States with dignity. That response is not the simple action of honoring the man who had the courage to defend our country's dignity, to struggle for its nationality, and to defend our nation's independence, sovereignty, and freedom. That response is not merely those things.

Cabrera told the captains that our foreign policy must be adapted to the crisis, and it must seek the diversification that will make Panama less vulnerable and allow us to win the battle for Panama.

In response to a question, the deputy foreign minister said that now more than ever, the country must make very competent and politically correct diplomatic appointments, assigning individuals who support our struggle. [passage omitted]

Today, the seminar enters its fourth day, with further study of the country's political situation in a round table discussion in which representatives of various political parties and a wide range of ideologies will participate.

Along with the talks and exhibits, the captains will enter the final phase of the command post practical exercise, in which they must develop all the conventional procedures of territorial defense as part of a war plan.

Each group of six captains must present their work, which must include planning, execution, and evaluation.

FDP Captains Reiterate Support for Noriega

PA1401164689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Jan 89 p 13

["Military declaration" issued by the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, captains in Panama City on 13 January]

[Text] We, who through a generational change of command will inherit the top command positions within the Panama Defense Forces on the final day of this millenium, the historic milestone when the chains of colonialism will finally be broken, declare our irrevocable and unwavering decision to follow the difficult path of national liberation.

Aware of our patriotic responsibilities, we will never surrender the right of self-determination because no aggression, regardless of its type, magnitude, or length, will make us waver in our quest for liberty and independence.

This is not the struggle or the thought of a single man. It is the struggle and thought of a people, of several generations of Panamanians. To those who believe keeping or changing a commander will alter our path to the final objective of total freedom in the year 2000, we say: You are mistaken; you are mistaken because this is also the cause of a generation of officers on whose behalf I speak.

This new generation's tasks include the Defense Forces principle that emerged from the heart of the people and serves the people. [The FDP's] combat mission is to fight illiteracy, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, and the lack of access roads; in other words, fight anything that fails to meet the people's real, deep-felt needs.

We reiterate to the people, who put aside their ideological and political differences and opted for unity at the appropriate time, that their military brothers will stand by them today, tomorrow, and always to strengthen the struggle in defense of our national interests.

Commander in chief, sir:

We are aware of the dangers that surround you because you have upheld the banner of national dignity. Today we reiterate our oath to loyally close ranks at your side until the final victory.

My general, in memory of those who offered their lives in the struggle for liberation and sovereignty, we, the captains, reaffirm:
January martyrs
Free fatherland until the year 2000
For Panama, our lives
Not one step backward, Commander!

PNP Supports Sole Opposition Candidate

PA1301214689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Report on communique issued by the Panamanian Popular Nationalist Party, PNP; date and place not given]

[Text] The Panamanian Popular Nationalist Party today expressed its support for the opposition parties in the upcoming May elections. The PNP expressed its support in a communique signed by the main PNP leaders and released by PNP Secretary General Jorge Flores.

The PNP claims the only option the opposition has is to participate in the elections. The PNP urges the opposition to give up sectarianism for the sake of unity.

[Begin Flores recording] The PNP believes elections could lead to national unity and to a peaceful change of direction, which the Panamanian people have been waiting for and which could be achieved with the participation and support of the majority of the people.

The PNP believes the polling booths are a weapon we must use to solve our problems in a Panamanian way. The PNP claims that a single candidate supported by all the forces that oppose the regime, which has been misgoverning for over 20 years, can change the course of the nation and can help us to successfully face the country's economic recovery, the democratization process, and the recovery of our self-confidence in order to rebuild the country and seek reconciliation among Panamanians.

The PNP joins the efforts of those who believe a well-used vote is an effective weapon to attain the country's democratization. We know we lack optimum conditions for honest and clean elections, but that creates a challenge to Panamanians' peaceful behavior, courage, and democratic militancy.

The PNP only hopes that the opposition parties will assume their serious responsibility before the Panamanian people and history. The PNP hopes the opposition will be noble and unselfish and will abandon personal or sectarian ambitions and choose the best list of three candidates [for the presidency and vice presidencies] headed by the best candidate that the current circumstances demand.

In addition to his talent, that candidate must have proved to be a courageous fighter and an unselfish man; he must prove to be a man who is very aware of the country's current situation, and someone who can lead not only a government of reconstruction and reconciliation, but also someone who can promote a new historic plan for Panama before the year 2000. [end recording]

PRD President on Election Preparations
PA1601130989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Statement by Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Carlos Duque Jaen; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In today's work meeting, we ratified the National Liberation Coalition's [COLINA] constitutive charter [acta constitutiva] and reviewed, discussed, and ratified COLINA's political platform. In today's meeting we discussed, for example, the schedules for holding the provincial conventions. These conventions will be held on 28 January, and all parties composing COLINA will participate in them.

Subsequently, around 1 February, a national convention will be held. We hope to have all the details ready by 28 January so the political parties can be ready to participate in the provincial conventions. From now on, COLINA will choose and will present the working commissions, in which all COLINA parties will be represented. This leads us to the start of the cycle and the daily tasks that will be carried out by COLINA.

Arias Calderon: 'Unity' Watchword of Opposition
PA1501140389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, today said that the unity of the opposition is the watchword of the democratic forces who oppose the country's current situation:

[Begin recording] It is not just a matter of picking a presidential candidate or ticket for one more election in the history of our country; it is something much more profound and important. All civilian and democratic opposition forces, through a candidate and presidential ticket, can give the country the opportunity to clearly and basically choose between General Noriega, his dictatorship, and the crisis; and a leadership, a democracy, and a better life.

It even involves something else, because once the electoral campaign is over and the victory of the civilian and democratic opposition recognized, the leaders who are chosen must offer the country—friends and foes, all Panamanians alike—a leadership capable of facing the tasks we all need to undertake: to democratize our country effectively, rebuild it economically and socially, and rescue the nation's sovereignty and our homeland's international prestige. [end recording]

PDC Allegedly Plans To Divide Opposition
PA1701194989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Jan 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Text] Panama City (DPA)—Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, former chief of staff of the Panama Defense Forces, yesterday distributed to Panamanian opposition politicians a letter in which he reports an alleged plan by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] to "discourage presidential candidates from the majority Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] from running in the elections."

Diaz Herrera, in his letter sent from his exile in Caracas, Venezuela, refers to an apparent exchange of letters among PDC leaders in which they intend to "neutralize" the candidacies of Mireya Moscoso de Arias, Arnulfo Arias Madrid's widow, and Guillermo Endara, who was also a close collaborator of the late opposition leader.

The retired military man recognizes in his letter, a copy of which was delivered to DPA by a PPA leader, the "legitimate" rights of PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon, but he criticizes the fact that he should be imposed as a candidate to divide the opposition.

"I regret to see the absolute operational inefficiency of the Panamanian opposition because of their blindness, their personal ambitions, and lack of pragmatism," Diaz Herrera's letter states in another paragraph.

COLINA Announces 1 February Convention
PA1801023889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] The different commissions from the seven parties that comprise the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] are working at full steam to hold a single convention in which a presidential candidate will be nominated on Wednesday, 1 February.

CRITICA reporters were able to interview spokesmen from the different COLINA parties, who said delegations from throughout the country are getting ready for this joint political convention, which will be a historic one.

The organizers pointed out that the convention will be broadcast by a national radio network and it will be held at the Atlapa Convention Center.

The organizing committee is operating out of the 15th floor of the Bank of Boston Building on Via Espana while the COLINA offices are being built.

That response is a a way to honor the kind of human courage that transcends technological power and the power that money gives to a decadent country. That human courage and ability are demonstrated by the various forces that compose the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Today we listened to the statements by Major Luria and Colonel Lorenzo Purcell. They talked about FAP's work. When Maj Luria asked us who we are, where we are, and where we want to go, we could feel the development of an institution that is undoubtedly planning ahead into the future.

Is there militarism in Panama? Are human rights violated here? Is there no democracy in this country? When FDP planes arrive at a needy and isolated Panamanian town, peasants run to greet the arrival of a friendly plane and of men who struggle for their welfare and are seeking solutions to their problems. Panamanian peasants do not run and hide in shelters like peasants do in other countries, because the FDP planes are not planes of destruction. They are planes of peace, prosperity, and Panamanian nationality. [applause]

That is the basic problem. Is there not human respect in actions such as protecting the needy, providing them with aid, transporting teachers to isolated schools, transporting sick people to hospitals, and helping our needy people? That is respecting human rights. Protecting those who attack the country's dignity, those who violate the country's rights, and those who ask for foreign intervention is not respecting human rights. Are we violating human rights when we wish or intend to punish those who say: To defeat the captain of the ship, one must sink the ship, then let the ship sink?

Can we forgive that? Can we talk about respect for human rights when we allow some Panamanians to attack us by helping a foreign nation invade us and place that nation's interest above those of their homeland?

I think that when the Panamanian people start thinking, especially those who do not wish to see.... [changes thought] There is a saying that goes: There is none so blind as he who will not see, and there is none so deaf as he who will not hear. In Panama, we have people who have chosen to be blind and deaf.

However, the majority of Panamanians will have to admit that the FDP are complying with a sacred duty of establishing—as I said before—a free, sovereign and independent nation. That legacy can only come from great individuals; that example will only be followed when there is good leadership, leadership with feelings, with a clear concept of what the Republic of Panama should be.

The FDP is not the group that is not complying with the sacred duty of defending the Republic. We civilians have often failed, and we civilians are the ones who are in debt with the Republic.

There has been a revolutionary process that has advanced and that has prepared projects for the Republic's future. However, we must admit there are still many things to be done. We still have areas that have been neglected. Some men cannot go to school because they do not have the means to receive an education. We need more hospitals. Despite the great efforts in the agricultural field, there is still a lot to be done. We are in debt with a great sector of the Panamanian people. However, there is a clear understanding of those needs, and we know we must provide solutions to those problems that have not yet been handled as diligently as they should have. However, the FDP is not to be blamed. It is the vanguard. It has been on the frontlines. That is why I will endlessly repeat: No retreat, commander. There cannot be any retreat [applause], because that would be tantamount to having the Republic's progress retreat, and you have a responsibility, and the FDP has a responsibility.

Some countries are already understanding our position. Unfortunately, our position is still not clear in Latin America; there is still not a clear picture of what the FDP and its progressive position represent. Therefore, it is our duty, through our ambassadors and diplomatic missions, to tell those governments and peoples the truth about Panama. We have that responsibility, which I hope we will soon fulfill. We must start a campaign so all countries in the world will know the truth about the Republic. The FDP is part of that truth, and of course, so is its Air Force.

Today, I want to warmly congratulate these soldiers of the air. I urge them to continue with their peace mission, but at the same time I urge them to maintain their mission of safeguarding the Panamanian nation, which we all carry in our hearts just as you do. We hope that on a day like today you will be encouraged to continue on the path of sacrifice and abnegation, of dedication to the Panamanian homeland, because we all recognize and will continue to recognize your efforts, sacrifice, and dedication. To you my heartfelt greetings and my eternal respect, because you are Panamanians who deserve it. Thank you very much. [applause]

U.S. To Use Canal Funds To Pay PCC Workers

PA1701123489 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Jan 89 p 4

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince]

[Text] In an exclusive advance from the upcoming 20 January issue of THE TROPIC TIMES, the Southern Command newspaper that circulates in the military bases, it was learned today through leaks by Panamanian employees that President Reagan, reacting to the Panamanian people's official and popular protests over the 9 January massacre, has asked the U.S. Government to continue withholding the Panamanian taxes from Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees and to adopt an economic plan that will be paid for from the annuities provided by the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

The employees and families from whom Panama confiscates properties through legal action will be housed in hotels and reimbursed for the seized properties. Employees who cannot obtain their automobile license plates will receive $154 per week for car rental in addition to their salaries.

It has been learned that the Treasury Ministry will consider any payments from such funds as a crime, and whoever makes those payments will be subject to Panamanian criminal law. The Treasury Ministry will also consider any additional funds received by the taxpayers as taxable income, protecting the country's right to reject and denounce the fraudulent use of those funds by the U.S. Government.

THE TROPIC TIMES cites a Washington official named Armitage as its source. The official claims to be speaking in the name of George Bush, although he has not yet taken office.

PCC Administrator's Economic Report Criticized

PA1601230389 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Administrator Dennis P. McAuliffe has hidden facts from the PCC Board of Directors in a report entitled "Impact of the Panamanian Banking Crisis on the Canal." This high-ranking official has chosen to ignore that the binational organization had advantages that the rest of the country's economy did not.

A high-ranking government official, who is well-informed on the matter, stressed that the PCC was not adversely affected, like the rest of the country was, by the Reagan administrtation's actions, which had a serious negative impact on the country's economy.

McAuliffe does not include in his report the fact that the Panamanian currency system allowed the PCC to stock up on cash in a timely manner; an advantage that other Panamanian businesses did not have.

The source added that to say otherwise is to ignore that the negative effects on the economy were felt more lightly by the PCC, and it is also to deny that the canal administration had facilities to ensure the uninterrupted use of the canal.

McAuliffe's report fails to mention that the PCC used the American Express Bank, Ltd, which operates under a U.S. military concession granted by the Torrijos-Carter treaties. This facility is not intended for use by the PCC, and for the PCC to use it is a violation of the Panama Canal treaties.

Plans To Increase Canal Tolls in Oct Criticized

PA1301223789 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 1

[By Roberto R Rodriguez]

[Text] The U.S. majority on the Panama Canal Commission Board agrees with the canal administrator's view that "tolls have to be increased as of 1 October 1989" to compensate for a reported loss of revenues.

The U.S. members agreed with U.S. Army General Dennis McAuliffe, who recommended that "tolls be increased" at the last, partially attended meeting of the Canal Commission Board.

Latin American sources told MATUTINO that this toll increase will adversely affect the economies of the countries in the region because a large quantity of goods from North America, South America, Europe, and Asia passes through the canal.

A number of Latin American countries have expressed their displeasure over the position of the U.S. board members, who tried to impose toll increases when the Latin American economies were in recession.

Panama has argued for years that a revenues shortfall at the canal could be offset by an austerity program that would involve cuts in the subsidies received by U.S. employees for electricity, water, and telephone bills as well as the vacation trips and other fringe benefits they receive.

Chief of Staff Justine Addresses FDP Seminar

PA1301220089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 2

[Excerpts] Amador—Colonel Marcos Justine Fernandez, Panama Defense Forces [FDP] chief of staff, on 12 January addressed the captains participating in the seminar. He spoke of his personal experiences in the FDP and gave an account of the evolution of the military institution. [passage omitted]

The ranking officer said that three men stand out in Panamanian military history, having made substantial contributions to the nationalist character of the FDP and making it what it is today. They are generals Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, Omar Torrijos Herrera, and Manuel Antonio Noriega. [passage omitted]

"Commander Noriega's actions over the past 5 years have demonstrated his leadership and his patriotic ability to confront the aggression against Panamana with no other weapons than reason, honor, and justice," Justine emphasized.

In another speech at yesterday's session, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera assessed Panama's position in the international scene.

Official on Opening of Soviet Trade Office

PA1801003489 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 16 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Luis Barletta, director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute (IPCE), says a Soviet commercial office will open in Panama "very soon," and that the Foreign Ministry is conducting the necessary negotiations.

On 31 December, the Legislative Assembly approved a commercial agreement with the Soviet Union, and the official who promotes Panamanian exports appears eager for the establishment of a Soviet commercial office. He said "commercial relations have no ideology and we have to make up for lost time."

"We have to take advantage of all these opportunities," Barletta said, and we must "establish closer commercial ties with the Soviet Union to determine what products we can develop to sell to them."

He added that the Soviets are already selling us a large number of Lada automobiles and that we have an unfavorable trade balance. "Therefore," Barletta added, "we have to at least balance that by exporting products in which Panama has a competitive edge, especially food."

Officials Discuss Efforts in Foreign Marketing

PA1501125689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Statements by Ambassador to Italy Bruno Garisto and Luis Berletta, executive director of the Foreign Trade Institute; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garisto] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry wants to invigorate all its actions, including finding alternatives for investments and new markets for our products. Under this new foreign trade policy, the Panamanian Embassy in Italy has been implementing a work program to achieve these objectives as soon as possible. We are already obtaining results from this policy, which represents a series of expectations for Panama by groups of Italian investors who are already taking action on ways to participate in our economy.

[Barletta] We have to provide incentives for both sectors of our economy that have always had the least development: agriculture and industry. We have always lived off the services sector, which we must continue to motivate and develop—but without neglecting the other two sectors, because they are very important for our smooth, integrated development and for creating new jobs for our people's welfare.

Banking Center Balance of Deposits Increases

PA1601124289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 15 Jan 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The Panamanian Banking Center's balance of deposits increased during the last quarter of 1988 by $47 million, primarily because the clients' attitude toward the system is still one of "understanding and tolerance."

Mario De Diego, executive director of the National Banking Commission [CBN], said that if clients maintain that positive attitude and the banks follow suit, the process to bring the country's banking activities back to normal will be strengthened.

De Diego stated: The combination of those two elements will create trust, and "we could soon issue the orders to lift other restrictions on the bank accounts."

The top-ranking government official of the agency, who guides and supervises official and commercial banking activities, said deposits reached "their lowest point" between May and September 1988, when they registered a balance of $226 million.

Official figures indicate that approximately $70 million was withdrawn when the banks opened, but more than 50 percent had been recovered by the end of December, thus allowing a $47-million increase.

The CBN director said the lifting of other restrictions on bank accounts and the increase in savings accounts' funds show that a "very satisfactory" banking "stabilization" is taking place. He added that this was mainly possible because of the clients' attitude, which has been "understanding and tolerant."

Nevertheless, De Diego believes the banks and bankers have entered a phase in which they must return the clients' understanding and tolerance with a positive attitude. For example, credit is now available in some banks, and others have renewed their credit lines.

Press reports indicate that some banks have increased their interest rates on new deposits. According to De Diego, this is a way to get new funds and renew the banks' competitiveness by offering attractive interest rates.

Some clients have stated that the official sector and the banks' clients have answered the challenges of a new banking situation in the country, so the banks "cannot fail to do likewise."

The clients added: "This would certainly pay back for the trust, tolerance, and cooperation given to the banking community."

Official figures from the CBN's economic advisers indicate that the balance of deposits was $330 million in early December 1988 even though many people had to pay their income tax that same month.

CBN authorities and bankers met with President Manuel Solis Palma early this week to discuss formulas to continue the program of lifting restrictions on bank accounts.

Businessmen Predict Economic Decline for 1989

PA1701153989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian private enterprise leaders predict the 1989 economy will be even worse than 1988, when business and industry worked at 50 percent of its normal capacity because of the crisis the country has been enduring for 18 months.

Alberto Boyd, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), believes this year there will be a "greater reduction of productivity," according to a report published over the weekend by the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP).

Boyd feels that "the economy will be affected even more" in 1989 because of the imminent cuts in government payrolls.

The government's revenues were cut in half as a result of the crisis and the severe economic and trade sanctions ordered by the U.S. Government to strangle the economy of the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and acting President Manuel Solis Palma.

According to Boyd, the crisis has increased unemployment in Panama to 25 percent of the work force.

The CONEP president reiterated that Panama must first solve the political problem, and he warned that if the 7 May general elections are held without any guarantees and the results are not respected, insecurity and instability will increase, which will worsen the economic crisis.

Meanwhile, George Richa, former SIP president and president of the Center for the Development of Productivity, said that "unless there are important changes in the country's political problem, we will continue sinking into a descending spiral in the economic field."

Independent economist Marcos Fernandez feels, in turn, that the reduction of Panamanian growth in 1989 "will not be as dramatic" as it was in 1988, because there will be a "slight drop in production" that will be "watered down by the foreign sector."

Fernandez forecasts that this will be a year favorable for shrimp, bananas, and other exports.

On the other hand, the SIP report states that the government's revenues dropped 44.2 percent in 1988, which represents a loss of over $431 million.

Government Employees To Be Paid 20 January

PA1801004789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Jan 89 p A-1

[Text] A Comptroller General's Office spokesman has told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that government employees are going to receive their wages for the first half of January beginning at 1100 on Friday, 20 January.

We asked the spokesman when the remaining 25 percent of the second installment of the 13th-month bonus [due in August 1988] and the entire third installment of the 13th-month bonus [due in December 1988] would be paid. He responded: "We are still negotiating."

The government and the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees has formed a commission to discuss alternatives that could be used to pay the money owed to the government employees.

Legal Action Resumes in 'Reverted Areas'

PA1801003189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2324 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Legal action against tenants who live in homes in the reverted areas and who are behind in their rent payments resumed today, according to Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez. Bermudez said this action is not the result of demagoguery and that persons who do not pay will be evicted from their homes without exception.

[Begin Bermudez recording] The action that we had begun was suspended by law until today. A Panamanian regulation exists whereby no one can be evicted from his home between the 1st of December through the 1st 2 weeks of January. Effective today, these evictions will resume, and cases will be filed with the courts. This is not demagoguery. The tenants have been given sufficient time to move. This is something that ends with the tenant being evicted. We have been working with our social department for a considerable time on this matter. We have urged the tenants to make arrangements to pay their rent. The tenants have been given sufficient time to pay their rent and have been given every opportunity to solve the problem, yet they have failed to do so. We must take legal action and resort to evictions, if necessary. [end recording]

Brazil

$3-Billion Loan To Be Requested From U.S.

PY1301224389 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Finance Ministry Secretary for International Affairs Sergio Amaral will meet with the representatives of the Brazilian creditor banks in New York this weekend. He will outline the measures of the "summer shock."

Brazil wants the banks to reduce or eliminate the relending and the debt conversions included in the refinancing accord signed last September. Such financial operations are considered inflationary. Amaral and Brazilian Ambassador to the United States Marcilio Marques Moreira will ask the U.S. Government for a $3-billion loan.

Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves said that the measures will be adopted on 16 January. President Jose Sarney is expected to announce them over a radio and television network.

Government Delays $500 Million Debt Payment

PY1701225189 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2030 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has just announced in a news conference that Brazil will delay the payment of the foreign debt that falls due today or tomorrow. The delay will be for 1 week and the amount in question is $500 million.

The minister also announced that the government has begun negotiating an emergency loan with the U.S. Government. Brazilian foreign reserves stand at $4.4 billion, an amount the Brazilian Government considers too low.

Dismissals of Public Employees Changed

PY1801022889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Today's Official Gazette published President Sarney's decision to cancel the decree on dismissals and to convert it into a Constitutional Provisional measure. This means that the decision will have to be approved by the National Congress.

President Sarney thought twice and decided to share the responsibility of dismissing the public employees with the congressmen. In 30 days, the congressmen will have to decide whether to dismiss all the 60,000 employees or no one.

New Labor Minister Installed at Planalto Palace

PY1301164089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Summary] Minas Gerais State Economist Dorothea Werneck, 40, was installed as labor minister at the Planalto Palace. This is the first of many administrative changes to be made by President Sarney in the next few days.

Colombia

Officials Dismantle FARC Cell in Bogota

PA1701131289 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 2-A

[Text] The Colombian authorities yesterday dealt a harsh blow to the self-styled group FARC through the dismantling of a logistical support cell in Bogota and through discovering a large cocaine plantation in Quebrada Losada Jurisdiction, Remedios Municipality, Antioquia Department.

After 5 months of investigation and after having conducted 25 searches in several areas of Bogota, the state security organizations yesterday dismantled a FARC logistical support cell in Bogota.

According to the information we obtained, the cell financially supported other FARC urban cells that operate in other parts of the country and it acted as the intermediary between those cells and Casa Grande, the FARC general staff headquarters.

Ten people were arrested, including an alleged female guerrilla known as Maritza, during the operation conducted by members of the national police, the Administrative Department of Security, the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations, and B-2 [not further identified].

Similarly, the authorities confiscated six sophisticated radio communication systems, one telefax, a lot of propaganda material, and an arsenal of weapons, including modern machineguns, submachineguns, rockets, grenades, pistols, ammunition, and clothes for the exclusive use of Armed Forces members.

To discover the FARC urban cell, the state security organizations conducted a strategic operation in Ciudad Kennedy, Villas del Madrigal, and other neighborhoods in southern and western Bogota.

The members of the subversive group who were arrested in that operation and the material confiscated were handed over to the 82d Permanent Criminal Trial Court.

In addition, in an airborne operation, some 11th Brigade members discovered two FARC-owned cocaine plantations at Monterrey farm, Quebrada Losa Jurisdiction, Remedios Municipality, northeastern Antioquia Department.

Authorities estimated that the plantations contained approximately 50,000 coca plants. The authorities added that one laboratory to process cocaine was also discovered.

Although no one was arrested in this operation, the men belonging to the FARC 4th Group [cuadrilla], who were operating the plantations, fled because of the Army presence.

Yesterday, narcotics police began destroying the plantations and the cocaine laboratory discovered at FARC-owned Monterrey farm.

Authorities stated that the operations conducted in Bogota and Remedios, Antioquia Department, are harsh blows to the FARC rebels.

Logistical Leader Arrested

PA1301234489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Report by Maria Clara Gracia]

[Text] Here in the capital of the Republic, 20 individuals were arrested in various raids staged by the authorities. As a result, the authorities obtained additional information regarding the operational plan of the FARC's urban logistical support network, which involves a priest.

The Army of National Liberation is not the only guerrilla organization headed by a priest; the FARC's urban logistical support network is headed by Rev Camilo Lopez, who has been a member of this guerrilla organization for the last 8 years. The subversive priest posed with a rifle and a Bible in hand for a French magazine at the end of 1987. His subordinates in descending order of rank are Rodolfo Gonzalez, who uses the name El Flaco Jaime in Colombia and the name Tomas Ramirez in Panama, and who is currently in hiding; Alvaro Eduardo Benavides, alias Pablo, who was detained in Jamaica; Hernando Cadena, alias El Tata; Maria de los Angeles Vargas, alias Yolanda, who handled the communications equipment; and Maritza Palencia, alias La Negra, who worked as a secretary at the municipal district office. Her brother, Carlos Palencia, who reportedly operated one of the communications centers, is also in hiding.

There are 2 doctors among the 12 [number as heard] people who were recently arrested: Fernando Garcia Lozada, who worked at the Cundinamarca Health Secretariat, and Antonio Jose Montes, alias Carlos, the official FARC doctor.

Official sources said that Montes, along with El Tata and journalist Jairo Amado Garcia, recruited health brigades to transfer them to Casa Verde [a town in Bolivar Department]. Garcia also wrote the communiques that La Negra sent by telefax.

Among the materiel confiscated by the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations are two Uzi submachineguns stolen from the National Police, four cases of Soviet-made ammunition, a sword, photographs of FARC leader Jacobo Arenas, communist magazines, books by Lenin, a videocassette entitled Rebellion and Amnesty, and modern communications equipment.

EPL Raids Officers Club, Steals Weapons

PA1601003989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Report by Oscar Galvin]

[Text] The EPL [Popular LIberation Army] stole 13 G-3 rifles and 500 cartridges from the Colombian Air Force Officers Club during a raid at 0715 today. The Officers Club is located on 64th Street, No 375, Bogota. Several men dressed as lieutenants entered the club's main entrance and another group entered through the back. After immobilizing the guards, they proceeded to steal the 13 rifles and 500 cartridges. This information was confirmed to "Seven Days in the World" newscast by the Defense Ministry's Spokesman General Murrillo.

FARC Kills Five Peasants in Monteria, Cordoba

PA1501140889 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Jan 89 p 2-A

[Text] Five persons were killed during a guerrilla incursion on the outskirts of Monteria, Cordoba Department.

According to a police report, several members of the FARC 28th Front entered the township of San Miguel, Loma Verde Corregimiento, and kidnapped Guadel Antonio Lopez, Eliecer Barrera Vargas, Julio Cesar Nobes, Luis Alberto Izquierdo, and Luis Pinedo.

The rebels forced the five peasants to dig their own graves and killed them by slitting their throats.

Groups of volunteers from San Miguel found the peasants' graves several days later.

Peru

Minister Defends Fishing Contract With USSR

PY1401024289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria has hinted that the Soviet fishing ships might leave and cancel their fishing contract with Peru because of the negative attitude of some sectors. The minister reiterated the positive aspects of the contract.

[Begin Leon Alegria recording] Look, Peru is rich; it has natural resources. Unfortunately, we have turned it into a poor country, because we have been unable to reach agreements and to impartially and patriotically preserve the national interest. We have been unable to use our natural resources for promoting development, as in the case of gas, or for increasing food production through the use of our fishing resources.

When the Shell company, which is a capitalist company, was engaged in negotiations over the development of gas, some oposition sectors made a lot of noise. In the end no contract was signed because some prejudiced people do not like capitalist companies. The gas is still underground and the country has no energy.

Now we are dealing with a socialist company, and some prejudiced people do not like to deal with socialists. As in the Shell case, the Soviet company, which does not

have to tolerate insults and distrust, may well decide to cancel the contract, and they would have every right to do so. Peru would thus miss the chance of feeding our people with our fishing resources.

I therefore call upon all Peruvians to behave reasonably and impartially. If our businessmen had invested we would have had a fleet, but Peruvian businessmen have not built a single high-seas fishing boat. [end recording]

Shining Path Reportedly Kills 4 in Yauyos

PY1301150089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0234 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Lima, 12 Jan (EFE)—It has been reported in Lima that four agricultural sector leaders were killed and a mayor injured in attacks by alleged Shining Path terrorists at various villages in Yauyos Province.

The terrorists charged their victims—three leaders of a rural community and the deputy governor of the village of Huantan—with cooperating with government forces, and shot them several times, police sources have reported.

In the village of Vinac, three unidentified people shot and seriously wounded the local mayor, Julian Meneses.

It is believed that the two attacks were part of the escalation of terrorist activities by the Shining Path since last November. More than 30 people have been killed since then.

Some 13,000 people have been killed in Peru since 1980, when the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group started operating in the country.

Terrorists Kill 2 Policemen While on Duty

PY1301215689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The citizenry has requested that the authorities stop the recent escalation of terrorist activity in this city following the shooting of two more members of the national police. They were shot at point blank last night in La Victoria district.

Two brave members of the national police were treacherously killed last night, one block from the Yerbateros Police Station. Four subversives shot them while they were on patrol.

Including last nights casualties, 25 members of the National Police have been shot by the terrorists in less than a week. We can still see the evidence of the brutal attack on the two policemen here on block No 12 on Nicolas Ayon Avenue, by a bus stop of the Lima-Huancayo bus line.

Policemen Ignacio Garcia Poma and Hugo Vilcagaray Saquinaga were ambushed by four terrorists who shot the policemen, took their guns, and fled.

Garcia Poma was shot in the left check, while Vilcagaray received a bullet in the left temple.

Ambush Mayor, Injure 2 Guards

PY1401140289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpts] At 2005 tonight, while returning from a routine trip, Juliaca Mayor Arturo Bernal Salas—acting chairman of Puno Departmental Development Corporation—was ambushed on the Arequipa-Juliaca road some 3 km from the town of Juliaca. Two of Mayor Bernal's security guards were injured in the attack and are now being treated at the Adventist Clinic. The mayor, who drove his car back into town, was not injured. [passage omitted]

The attack caused great shock in the region because it is the first terrorist attempt on the life of Mayor Bernal.

Kill 15 in Madre de Dios

PY1401204189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1801 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Lima, 14 Jan (EFE)—Fifteen gold prospectors from the town of Colorado, in the jungle department of Madre de Dios, were shot to death by 50 terrorists.

The Lima newspaper EXPRESO today reports that the authorities of the port of Maldonado, capital of Madre de Dios Department, informed the Interior Ministry today of this massacre.

According to the report, the terrorists opened fire on 120 gold prospectors who were working in the El Milagrito River site, owned by Pablo Sulca.

The owner, his foreman, and 13 workers died in the attack.

Minister Confirms Discovery of New Oil Field

PY1401024789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Summary] Mines and Energy Minister Jose Carlos Carrasco has confirmed the discovery of a new oil deposit in area No 36 in northern Peru, where a new oil well is turning out 569 barrels of oil a day.

Venezuela

* Andres Perez Speaks on Economy, Other Issues

* Debt, Domestic Policy

33480067 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 19

[Text] "I have an ambition that is history," asserted Carlos Andres Perez. He emphasized the need for Latin America to join forces to achieve the restructuring of the foreign debt, and for "true cooperation" between the United States and Latin America. He rejected the idea of renouncing the debt.

"It is imperative that the creditor nations take into account the plight of our economies and our real ability to pay so that a framework of negotiations can be established to allow us room for development."

Citing the example of Venezuela, where the debt service represents nearly 70 percent of the value of exports this year, he contended that "you don't need to be an economist to realize that the country can't withstand this situation without being forced to halt all development and undergo serious social traumas."

He argued, however, that "in the industrialized countries there is now a clear perception" of this, except for the current U.S. administration, whose "extremely harsh and intransigent attitude" he criticized.

In this regard, he said that "one idea we like" is the formation of an international agency "that might be created or that might be the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, to purchase the debt on the secondary market, in other words, at 50 percent of its value, and that would be in charge of scheduling payments by debtor nations."

He emphasized that Latin American countries "have no alternative but to join forces to provide a common framework for negotiating the debt," and he proposed "meetings with the heads of state of the United States, the EEC, and Japan, because this has to be dealt with at the political level and at the highest level."

In addition, he said it is "indispensable to restructure and strengthen the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which Venezuela is a member, given that petroleum represents 90 percent of its exports, and he proposed a conference of the leaders of the OPEC countries.

Perez stated that the Reagan administration "leaves a completely negative balance in its relations with Latin America," and that "its handling of the Central American situation has been an obvious failure." He expressed optimism, however, with regard to "the new relationship" that the new president "necessarily" has to promote.

"The Central American problem can be resolved if we reach an agreement between the United States and the countries of Latin America. The United States cannot be excluded from the solution to this problem, but the big stick policy has proven to be absolutely useless in our times."

He emphasized that the ties with Japan and the socialist world must be strengthened, as should relations with the EEC, which today "are of extraordinary importance."

As for domestic policy, he advocated the "destatization" of enterprises and nonessential services. He stressed "the wide-ranging possibilities and assurances for foreign investment." Regarding the situation of critical poverty, he expressed support for a "consultation" among all sectors in order to implement "difficult measures," and a policy of direct subsidies for the most deprived.

He said that he favors a humanist socialism "that promotes social justice, that is based on the distribution of property without conceiving it as part of a class struggle, and that accepts the norms of the capitalist system but tries to make corrections in the process of accumulation of wealth in a few hands."

"I believe that it is impossible to conceive of economic growth without social development, that these two concepts should go hand in hand, and that the objective of any economic policy must be the well-being of society as a whole, not the creation of privileges." With respect to the reason for his candidacy, he said: "I have an ambition that is history. I have managed to win the support of my people. I have an obligation."

* Capital Flight, Taxes

33480067 Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish
28 Nov 88 pp 18-21

[Interview with presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez by Enrique Melendez; date and place not given]

[Text] [BOHEMIA] There is talk of the impoverishment of the Venezuelan middle class at this time. In fact, recently the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV) released to the press a document that emphasizes this problem. The document discusses a privileged sector of our society that benefited from huge amounts of resources turned over by the state, to the detriment of the other group, the middle class. What is your opinion of this?

[Andres Perez] This is the serious problem we face in Venezuela, and I have delineated it very clearly in my campaign speeches. It is a very specific part of the government action that must be taken for a modern Venezuela. There is no doubt that critical poverty has advanced in the country in the context of the difficult plight we face at present, and we should be concerned about this. Moreover, it is also clear that a sector of the middle class is sliding dangerously toward a subsistence economy, that is, toward poverty. These factors must be a source of anguish for those of us who aspire to govern, or for any Venezuelan who is interested in the welfare of his country. I have attributed the utmost importance to them in my platform and in my speeches, and decisions that will tackle this problem must assuredly be made in the Venezuelan economy. The deterioration of the middle class is detrimental to the country's future. The critical poverty that condemns the workers and peasants to the fringes of society is an immeasurable social ill that also threatens Venezuela's future, because it is an incubator for crime, for that lack of personal safety that everyone talks about so much.

So one of the problems I will have to deal with as soon as I take office is that of prices and wages. I mention both of them, because there is another problem, inflation. In addition to the document you cited, some statements by the president of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEDECAMARAS) have been published, and they have some

very good points. But we are surprised that they always emphasize just the facts that favor them or confirm their assertions, even though they should not ignore other situations that we feel are fundamental. Inflation is a very serious problem that we must confront and curb, but let's not forget about the situation of the poor, the critical poverty that businessmen must also look at and must help me grapple with. That is why I will take the essential points from the statements issued by the CTV and FEDECAMARAS when I meet with them in the consultation. OK, gentlemen, you have this opinion, and you have that opinion. I propose that we put the two positions together, that both sides assume the costs and benefits. Then we will see how we can raise wages and salaries without giving a new and powerful boost to inflation, which would cancel out the pay raise. Because this is where the problem lies.

If we raise wages, prices will go up, there is no doubt about that. But if at the same time we commit ourselves to plans to bolster productivity, that wage hike will benefit the workers, and that wage hike will benefit businessmen as well, because it will boost the buying power of the Venezuelans who receive those salaries and wages.

Greed in Our Times

[BOHEMIA] There is a kind of sin of greed that is corrupting the morals of Venezuelans today. An example of that is the fact that some $90 billion in private capital of ours is now languishing in foreign banks. Another is administrative corruption, a problem that was even very evident during your administration. Now, as a man who has been associated with political praxis for many years of your life, do think perhaps this ill may harbor a solution?

[Andres Perez] Well, I will say that if this behavior of capital were just a Venezuelan characteristic, I would be happy, because the problem would be very tiny, just Venezuela. They say that capital knows no homeland, and I would venture to say it has no mother, either. That is the truth; we can't expect anything of capital in this regard. Capital behaves according to the profits that can be had, and if there are no profits in a given country, it leaves that country, even if it belongs to illustrious patriots. That is the reality of capitalism; that is the capitalist system. That is what is wrong with capitalism. Capitalism has other virtues, and we are well advised to accept it, but we must try to make certain corrections in it to make it more human, as humanity is what capital is lacking.

So...now, it isn't $90 billion, either. Ninety billion dollars would be an impossible amount, but some do say that there is more than $30 billion. In other words, the amount that we owe is held by a group of Venezuelans on deposit in foreign banks, that is true. But that money will not return to Venezuela unless economic conditions are created to make it attractive and appropriate to invest in the country. That is the realistic criterion I use, without placing any ethical value on the situation. From that point of view, I undoubtedly share the notions you have expressed.

As for the problem of corruption, yes, we must confront that problem very directly in Venezuela. What happened in my government was that I was, or they tried to make me, a character like the one in that comedy: the "policed policeman". The first president who spoke out against corrupt practices and brought them to the attention to the press and put people in jail was Carlos Andres Perez. Because dictatorships don't disappear without a trace in a country, and their practices remain behind, still followed under the democracy. When a government accepts corruption and does not combat it, it is a corrupt government; but when it accepts the corruption and does combat it, that means it is not a corrupt government.

So that makes governments adopt measures, of course; they make people step down, remove them from office, but they don't say anything unless the people are caught red-handed. And this is the kind of aiding and abetting that has allowed corruption to grow in the shadows in Venezuela. That did not happen in my government. The scandals that occurred in Venezuela during my government were provoked directly by the government itself; that is the truth about what happened at that time.

And I will do exactly the same thing again, this time with more experience to bring to bear on something that I regard as a historic challenge.

True Tax Reform

[BOHEMIA] Apparently there is a great deal of tax evasion in our country. Do you perhaps have a solution to this problem?

[Andres Perez] I agree that the problem with our tax system is not that the rates are too low. I think they are not low, but that it is an antiquated system that does not work, and that more taxes are evaded than paid. Thus, the Venezuelan tax system must be modernized, and I will carry out that tax reform, because it is indispensable. Now, we must convince the business sectors and we must consult with them and discuss this. They won't like it, but it has to be done, but within a cooperative framework. When a country is going through a crisis like this, the worst thing it could do would be to provoke a dispersal and a confrontation with the sectors of production.

Paying To Enter the Country

[BOHEMIA] If I may, I would like to utter this exclamation in your presence: How can it be that an immigrant to this country, even a tourist, has to concoct so many elaborate fabrications to get a visa!

[Andres Perez] Here we come back to what I was saying about the dictatorship. Dictatorships are xenophobic by nature, by definition. Dictatorships see anything coming from abroad as the seed of revolution, the seed of the bad example, and so many decades of dictatorship leave their mark. Our countries are left with this legacy of obstacles to prevent anyone from coming in from abroad.

When I was interior minister I did away with all of the procedures that were required for foreigners to enter the country and modernized them, because it's not that they should exist, there shouldn't be any regulations. The consuls were given their instructions: You are consuls, you know whom to give visas to and whom to refuse them. When there is an important matter that you think you can't solve, ask, but you are responsible. Now we have one of the greatest elements of corruption in the foreign service: no visa can be given to any foreigner from any country without asking Caracas. Well, what does Caracas know, what does the Foreign Ministry know, what does the Interior Ministry know, what does the DIEX [Directorate of Immigration] know about who is who in Colombia or who is who in the Dominican Republic or who is who in Mexico or who is who in Argentina? But there is indeed some good correspondence between some consular official in a country and an agency here of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP), judging by how many thousands of bolivares it costs to get a telegram authorizing a visa.

It is a corrupt system that does absolutely nothing to improve the control of foreigners.

A few days ago the Latin American Bishops Conference (CELAM) was held here. When the Mexican bishops went to request a visa, they were told at the Venezuelan Consulate that they would have to wait 72 hours for our country to let them know whether they would receive a visa, so the Mexican bishops were unable to come. Can this be possible? This is an embarrassment to us. These procedures must be done away with. But the mass media could contribute to the real modernization of our country's foreign service systems.

How can we attract tourists with such antiquated regulations that don't solve anything! Modern communications make it possible for anyone who wants to enter our country to do so either secretly or legally, because the borders are very long and easy to cross. It's not like it used to be, when you had to wait for a ship to sail to one country or another. So this is a vice that we inherited from the dictatorships.

[BOHEMIA] Don't you think that the income of Venezuelans should be distributed better, and the tax policy reformed, so that big capital will pay more taxes?

[Andres Perez] Well, as for your first question, the problem of income distribution is undoubtedly one of the great challenges to the democratic system, which accepts the capitalist system as the basis of its economy. And the capitalist system has as its fundamental force a centripetal action that tries to concentrate capital in a few hands. That is the very nature of the capitalist system, and democracy, by means of a series of decisions, tries to impose checks and balances on that concentration of capital. The income tax, the tax on luxury items, and the sales tax are examples of such measures. I think that we undoubtedly need to modernize our tax system here in Venezuela, because it's not that the Venezuelan tax rates are too low, it's simply that very few people pay taxes and many people evade them. There is no question but that this is one of the things, as stated in my platform, that must be corrected in this country.

* Oil, Mining Policy

33480067 Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish
5 Dec 88 pp 30-31

[Interview with Carlos Andres Perez; date and place not given]

[Text] Former President Carlos Andres Perez has a policy of keeping abreast of the latest developments in Venezuela's real situation, as far as basic national industries are concerned. Since the beginning he has taken it upon himself to thoroughly study Venezuela's problems in the areas of petroleum and mining and the exploitation of other resources, as a point of departure for giving a new impetus to the national economy. In this regard, the former president believes that other types of petrochemical development should be fostered, that more attention should be given to the large-scale production of coal, and that gas should be used to meet the needs of the industrial and household sectors.

As for Venezuela's participation on the international oil market, Carlos Andres has argued that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries should have an active policy. Concerning mining, the strong man believes very seriously that a man with the rank of vice minister of energy and mines should be appointed to deal exclusively with the problems and projects that arise in this area.

Furthermore, he is aware that goals cannot be achieved overnight, and that triumphs will be subject to the integration of resources for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

[BOHEMIA] What would this ambitious development program entail?

[Andres Perez] It is very difficult to create and develop, in the short term, other economic activities that can replace petroleum as the primary source of foreign exchange. Moreover, the judicious use of these revenues will make it possible to develop other economic alternatives that will bring us closer to the ideal of a healthy and balanced economy.

Venezuela has a number of conditions and comparative advantages that make it interesting and possible to diversify the sources of the petroleum industry's foreign exchange income through expansion and new types of petrochemical development. This will substantially enhance the value of our hydrocarbon resources.

[BOHEMIA] What will these types of development be?

[Andres Perez]

- The expansion of coal production capacity and access to the international coal market. At the same time, the coal sector will undergo industrialization in the manufacture of metallurgical coke and the development of uses in this country.
- The industrialization of natural gas to meet domestic demand and for export.
- The use of gas and other energy sources in national consumption, at both the industrial and household levels, for the purpose of freeing up liquid hydrocarbons for export.

[BOHEMIA] But petroleum will continue to be the principal source of foreign exchange earnings, so what will the general lines of oil policy be?

[Andres Perez] The fundamental objective of the energy program will be to lay the groundwork so that through the comprehensive exploitation of national energy resources, the country's development needs can be met effectively and efficiently. The program calls for an energy-efficient economy with greater technological autonomy, industrial integration, and ecological harmony.

[BOHEMIA] At the most recent meetings of OPEC, there have been rumors about lower prices for a barrel of oil. What will Venezuela's position be, then, in that organization?

[Andres Perez]

- To keep an active position in OPEC to contribute to the unity and consistency of action on the part of the organization to stabilize the market and defend petroleum prices. In addition, relations with exporting countries that do not belong to OPEC will be stepped up.
- In addition to actions within OPEC to defend prices and the volume of exports, Venezuela will take its own actions to guarantee access to the market for its crudes and products in a stable and secure manner. This will counteract the risks derived from the uncertainty of the oil market in the foreseeable future.
- The necessary precautions will be taken for the planning of the petroleum, petrochemicals, and coal industries and the use of financial resources, to ensure that they are in keeping with the goals and demands of national planning.
- The supply of hydrocarbons that the domestic market requires will be guaranteed under a policy of rationalization of consumption.
- Greater scientific and technological autonomy will be achieved in the energy sector.

[BOHEMIA] With regard to the Venezuelan mining industry, do you have any particular plan?

[Andres Perez] Dealing with mining in Venezuela involves taking various measures related to structural, administrative, and legal reforms. The significance that petroleum has had for the Venezuelan economy for more than half a century has caused the Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons, and later the Ministry of Energy and Mines, to focus their attention on hydrocarbons. Mining policy, and mining in general, has been pushed into a distant second place. It is therefore imperative that this distortion or deformity be corrected in the Ministry of Energy and Mines and in its policies, so that the mining sector, until now underestimated, can be given due attention in the organizational structure of the ministry as well as its intrinsic importance.

In this connection, we must boost its status within the Ministry of Energy and Mines by assigning it to an official with the rank of vice minister, whose exclusive purview would be mining and related activities.

[BOHEMIA] Would the state be involved alone in this endeavor, or do you plan to bring in the private sector?

[Andres Perez] I was getting to that...we need to encourage greater participation by national and foreign private investors. We must also bolster the value added of exportable minerals; stimulate geological prospecting and research; undertake special projects in the areas of gold, diamonds, coal, and phosphates; intensively promote mining projects; bring order to mining activity; promote the training of specialized human resources in this activity; and stimulate mining exports.

[BOHEMIA] Does Venezuela have enough human resources to carry out this endeavor?

[Andres Perez] By placing emphasis, as was done between 1974 and 1979, on the development of human resources, now with the active participation of the private sector. Petrochemical development, the industrialization of natural gas, and the basic enterprises located in Guayana will make it possible to replace a significant and growing volume of imports at the national level, to meet the growing domestic demand on competitive terms, and to contribute to the development of an energy-using industry that is a great generator of employment. This, in turn, will stimulate not only human resource training programs, but also the participation of universities in research.

Suriname

Foreign Minister Heidweiller Relieved of Duties

PM1701164189 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 12 Jan 89 p 3

[Unnamed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Heidweiller Suspended After Outspoken Criticism"]

[Text] Former Surinamese Foreign Minister Heidweiller has been suspended from his post as an official at the Foreign Ministry because of his sharp criticism of the government. Heidweiller has also been accused of activities undermining the government during a visit to the United States.

At a press conference called by Heidweiller himself last Thursday [5 January] he accused the government of "laxness" for offering the Netherlands an apology over the detention of a Dutch diplomat in late December. During a visit to the United States, Heidweiller is also said to have held talks with State Department officials without the knowledge of the official Surinamese representative. He is said to have taken part in the talks on the pretext that he was on a secret mission from President Shankar. In the talks, Heidweiller is reported to have said that the Surinamese Government is lame and that the Army has, in reality, retained power. According to Heidweiller, the State Department should therefore do business with the military. Heidweiller has been instructed to answer the government charges in the near future.

Further on Foreign Minister

FL1201233389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Heidweiller has been relieved of duties by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This measure resulted from critical remarks that Mr Heidweiller made against Foreign Minister Sedoc in a press conference last week. According to the ministry, the remarks made by Heidweiller were derogatory and they undermined the authority of the minister. Further, the former ambassador is accused of indisciplined behavior during a [words indistinct] to the United States. Heidweiller, who was the [words indistinct] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been called upon to make a written (?defense) within a week. The official wasn't available for comments.

Head of Government-Controlled Radio Replaced

FL1601184989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The present spokesman of the Ministry of Public Works, (?Stanley Cameron), will be appointed as the new head of Radio Boskopu. He replaces (Robert Weidenbolt), who was in this position since the inception of the radio station in 1986. Boskopu is a chain of radio stations under government control with six transmitters in Paramaribo and various districts. According to the government spokesman, (?Cameron) will also be appointed as the information officer at the Ministry of Regional Development. Radio Boskopu is operating under this ministry.

Government Completes Development Plan Draft

FL1201233889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The government has completed its draft of the long-term development plan. The (?document) is expected to be submitted to the National Assembly and the State Council this week. This was announced yesterday during a press conference by Social Affairs Minister Soemita.

In the long-term development plan the government's development philosophy is included and the regional and [words indistinct] development until (?1994) [words indistinct]. The long-term development plan will be financed mainly by the Dutch treaty money and by bilateral and multilateral relations.